

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and, by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—*Humboldt's Cosmos.*

Contents:

REVIEW OF THE WEEK—	PAGE	Naval and Military.....	247	Liberals at the Elections.....	252	The Spiritualist.....	257
Imperial Parliament.....	242	Our Civilization.....	247	Foreign Policy Reform.....	253	A Batch of Books.....	257
The Approaching General Election.....	244	Gatherings from the Law and Po-	247	Retirement of the Speaker.....	253	Torrens on the Act of 1844.....	258
The Literary Fund.....	245	lice Courts.....	248	Cambridge Politics.....	254	A Persian Allegory.....	259
Accidents and Sudden Deaths.....	245	Miscellaneous.....	248	The Ruined Season.....	254	THE ARTS—	
The Orient.....	245	Postscript.....	249	The Literary Fund Meeting.....	254	Handel.....	259
America.....	245	OPEN COUNCIL—		The Crimean Commissioners.....	254	The Princess's.....	259
State of Trade.....	245	Convict-Converts.....	250	Direct Telegraph to India.....	254	The Gazette.....	260
Continental Notes.....	246	PUBLIC AFFAIRS—		LITERATURE—		COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS—	
The Law of Libel and the Newspaper	246	The General Election.....	250	Summary.....	255	City Intelligence, Markets, &c.....	260
Press.....	246	The Newest Paris Credit Scheme.....	251	Helps's Spanish Conquest.....	255		
The Royal British Bank.....	246			Sir John Bowring in Siam.....	256		

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SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1857.

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Review of the Week.

THE House of Commons is winding up affairs for its own dissolution, and the country is preparing for the struggle in which so many will bleed at the general election. Members are dividing themselves into the classes who will retire, who will be defeated, or will be re-elected; and "prospective computation" allots them into these several classes with much confidence—with more confidence, perhaps, than correctness. It has been calculated that all the Liberal members who voted against Lord PALMERSTON's Government will lose their seats, and the constituencies who elected those members are bidden to prefer even Tories to recreant Liberals. Some of the constituencies do not prove to be so obedient. Rather a curious example has been given by Mr. ARSELEY PELLATT, who voted for Ministers, but declines to accept re-election on the ground of a PALMERSTON candidate, preferring to stand upon his own character as a Reformer. It seems to be tolerably certain that some of the Peelite candidates will be ousted; but it is difficult to imagine that the Oxford University will divorce itself from Mr. GLADSTONE, notwithstanding the strange aberrations into which he has wandered. Portsmouth, which has been reckoned almost a Government borough, shows more alacrity in repudiating Viscount MONCK than Sir FRANCIS BARING, faithful as the Viscount was to his chief, Lord PALMERSTON, and faithful as Sir FRANCIS was to his view of logic in the lorch affair. London City turns out to be better disciplined than some of these country constituencies, for it dutifully throws out Lord JOHN RUSSELL, and the City looks out for new candidates. The leading members of the Administrative Reform Association are seen promoting a better selection of candidates to represent a commercial constituency.

Others of the Metropolitan districts are looking out for new candidates. Mr. WESTERTON will probably stand for Westminster on Protestant, anti-Liberal principles. Mr. H. RAIKES CURRIE comes up from Northampton to take his chance in the City. And there are likely to be other changes.

In the absence of any distinct rallying cry, beyond personalities which have been thrown out by Ministers and HER MAJESTY's Opposition, there is no definite principle for the selection of candidates; but it is more than probable that the effect of putting forth a personal cry as the principle of election will go far to defeat itself. Certain it is

that the excitement which was at first raised, is already, to a great extent, worn out. But deprived of any political proposition or practical object for which they might work, the constituencies are to a proportionate extent left to their own principles or fancies; and hence there is far more than customary degree of diversity in the grounds upon which the different constituencies are acting. In one place they go for PALMERSTON; in another for their old candidate whose services are long tried; in a third for the ballot or suffrage extension; in a fourth for the promotion of useful improvements; in a fifth for some combination which would "keep out the Tory," or would divide the constituency between Tory and Liberal; in a sixth for Protestant interests; in a seventh for making as much money as the electors can out of a candidate who is buying a seat to promote his own railway objects. Thus, instead of marshalling the new or re-elected members according to well-known political distinctions, the election is likely to send up an unclassified host, less than usual governed by the ordinary party allegiances. It is calculated by those who have the command of political arithmetic, that Lord PALMERSTON will increase his majority, but on what principles he will be supported by his new majority nobody can in the slightest degree anticipate.

Of course, with a recruited army at his back, he will be able to snatch some decisive victories out of the House of Commons on its first meeting. He is not the man to let victory slumber. Should he contemplate retirement, as many anticipate, he will probably bring his power to a prompt test, will extort a vote upon some Ministerial question which can easily be made for the purpose, and will politically expire, like Harlequin at the end of a pantomime, in a luminous whirligig.

And some of the town constituencies appear to be altogether disinclined to give up their proper representatives. Manchester, for instance, is likely enough to stick to MILNER GIBSON and BRIGHT. Should Lord JOHN RUSSELL be rejected from the City, he will easily find a seat for some other place. It is not to be expected, therefore, that the House will be so devoid of the old familiar speakers as some have imagined.

The impossibility of calculating what may be the course in that Parliament, is shown by the general resignation with which members notify the abandonment of their measures, not only for "the session," but as if they threw up the schemes *sine die*, without any definite resolution to take them up again. Sir JOHN PAKINGTON expressly checked

Sir GEORGE GREY, who anticipated that Sir JOHN would reintroduce his Education Bill in the next Parliament.

Some of the members are more obstinate. Mr. GLADSTONE, for instance, who made an elaborate review of our expenditure, and was defeated by 187 to 125, on moving that it should be revised and reduced, in order to relieve the people from taxation, declared that he should bring the subject forward again next session. He is almost certain to find his way into the House; after the turmoil of the election the public will be disposed to turn its eye to reductions, other financial members will be thinking of administrative and similar reforms, and Mr. GLADSTONE, therefore, is likely to prove a 'troublesome customer.' Not the less so, since Mr. DISRAELI repaid the right honourable gentleman's services by turning the cold shoulder to him.

Mr. SPOONER has resolved to investigate the Kensington Gore Estate advances, which the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER has deferred until next session; and it is highly probable that Mr. SPOONER will not be compelled to retire from his seat for Warwickshire.

On one point Ministers have been virtually beaten in the House of Commons. But, with more tact than he showed in the LOCKE KING debate, Lord PALMERSTON has deprived his enemies of a victory. A respectable agricultural Member took up the case of Sir JOHN McNEILL and Colonel TULLOCH, for the greater part of two years so familiar to our readers. Ministers sent these men to the Crimea to supply them with information, and, in consequence, many improvements were speedily made by the Government, which disarmed the public impatience at the bad administration of the army. On the return of the Commissioners, they found the very men who had been distinguished for misconduct receiving honours and additional emoluments, while not a word was said to them for the service done. Months after came partial verbal acknowledgments; months after again a letter of cold compliments, offering the two gentlemen a thousand pounds apiece, which they declined. There it seemed ended, but Mr. PALK would not have it so; he referred the matter, as the Crimean question itself had been referred, to the House of Commons; and on his motion the House adopted a resolution applauding the two commissioners, and requesting the Crown to reward them honorarily. Till that moment Lord PALMERSTON had stood out obstinately—as obstinately as he resisted LOCKE KING's instalment of Reform. It

would, however, have been awkward if an adverse vote had neutralized the effect of the China success; and with a general election before him, he yielded.

In the House of Lords the work has already been carved out for the next session, notwithstanding Mr. DISRAELI's protest against that "arrogance." Lord SHAFTESBURY proposed two questions—whether the East India Company can legally cultivate opium under its statutes, the charter prohibiting the Company from trading? and whether the encouragement of opium smuggling in China is not counter to the POTTINGER treaty? He proposed to submit these questions to the judges. Ministers met the motion by offering to submit them to the law officers of the Crown, and to the Queen's Advocate; and, advisedly, Lord SHAFTESBURY withdrew his motion. Or rather he postponed it; for he announced his intention of challenging a more complete inquiry next session. The proposal is open to real objection in the form which he gave it. It would, as the LORD CHANCELLOR said, practically arraign the East India Company before the House of Lords, while the House would be pronouncing a provisional verdict against the Company. The question of trading is extremely obscure, and the prohibition must be somewhat stretched to prevent the Company from taking a revenue out of its lands or a duty on opium; while it cannot be considered that the Company personally commits itself to any participation in the Chinese smuggling.

The SPEAKER has announced that on the close of this session he retires from Parliament; the usual compliments have been conferred upon him by the House of Commons with more than the usual emphasis; and he will enter the House of Lords, says gossip, as Baron HECKFIELD.

The foreign intelligence is fragmentary, and may be doubled up in a single paragraph. King FREDERICK WILLIAM has played France and England a trick—refusing even in the Paris Conference to accept the arrangement made for him by those two Powers, and anticipatively accepted by Switzerland. Russia stands by Sardinia—against Austria: a complication the more disagreeable, since we do not know on which side our Government stands. The Persian war seems to be really closed, and Persia is said to have made some concessions—a coaling station or two as a tribute to the power of this country; while the Independence of Herat is guaranteed—until next time; and in China we hear that Admiral Seymour is in increasing difficulties, awaiting the expedition which is to go to him.

Fraud is at its fun again in high style. At their half-yearly meeting, the shareholders of the Great Northern Railway, finding that there is an illegal excess of capital, have been obliged to devote their dividends to the extinction of supernumerary and fictitious stock. Mr. ESDAILE, the Governor of the Royal British Bank, has been under examination, but we have already told, on the authority of the Secretary the story which he told. And in France, they are getting up a splendid International Association of Commercial Credit—a glorious field for managing all kinds of great operations, commercial or otherwise.

EQUALISATION OF POOR'S RATES.—A meeting of the clergymen of the eastern districts of London (with the Rev. Canon Champneys in the chair) was held on Tuesday in the Vestry Room, St. Mary's, Whitechapel, to consider the propriety of moving for an equalisation of the poor's rates throughout the metropolis. The several speakers pointed out the grievous burden which has to be borne by the more necessitous districts (such as those at the east end of London), while the richer parishes escape with scarcely any assessment; and resolutions in accordance were carried.

THE UNEMPLOYED OPERATIVES.—Another meeting of the unemployed operatives took place on Monday in Smithfield. Not more than five hundred persons were present, and a Mr. Ford occupied the chair. The proceedings were devoid of special interest.

GREENWICH FAIR.—According to a local paper, the Greenwich Free Press, the celebrated "fair" is to be abolished.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, March 9th.

DIVORCE AND TESTAMENTARY JURISDICTION BILLS.

IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS, Lord LYNDHURST asked the Lord Chancellor what course he meant to pursue with respect to the Divorce and Testamentary Jurisdiction Bills.—The LORD CHANCELLOR replied that in the present state of Parliament it was not the intention of the Government to proceed further with either of those bills during the present session; but they would be re-introduced, with some alterations, at the very earliest period after the reassembling of Parliament.

THE WAR WITH CHINA.

The Earl of ALBEMARLE reminded Lord PANMURE that, a few evenings before, he had stated to him in reply to a question, that the despatches received from China would be speedily published. He (Lord Hardwicke), however, had not since seen them published, and believed they were not published, and he now begged to ask the noble lord when he would give them those despatches. It was important they should obtain them, as every hour seemed to thicken the plot in China. (Hear, hear.) According to a statement in the papers, which might or might not be true, we were obliged to receive assistance from the French in the protection of our countrymen in Hong-Kong: a statement very painful to the feelings of any Englishman.—Lord PANMURE thought the noble Earl had misunderstood the statement made by him on a previous night. What he had said was, that he had received a despatch from Colonel Dunlop, stating that certain operations had taken place and certain casualties had occurred, and describing the manner in which a company of infantry was engaged in performing the important duty entrusted to them. The list of casualties to which he referred had since been published.

TORTURE IN INDIA.

The Earl of ALBEMARLE gave notice that on that day week he would move for certain returns connected with the subject of torture in Bengal.

THE OPIUM TRADE.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY, in moving a question to be referred to the consideration of the Judges, as to whether the revenue at present derived by the East India Company from the opium trade with China is in legal accordance with an Act passed in the 3rd and 4th years of the reign of William IV., said his first object was to ascertain whether or not the trade is one recognised by our laws, and then to proceed, with the assistance of their Lordships, to devise some means for its total abolition. He believed it to be illegal—not only inconsistent with the spirit of our laws, but in direct contravention of many of them. By the Act of 1833, the East India Company is restricted from being any longer a commercial or trading association; yet they have a monopoly in this trade. The trade had proved a source of great and permanent injury to the trade of India, a cause of perpetual irritation and conflict along the south-eastern coast of China, and a standing disgrace to the national character of the English. Eventually, it might prove a peril. Many of the most experienced men in China had said that opium and Christianity could not enter that empire together. The present state of things had lasted for half a century; and successive Governments had connived at its extension. He denied, on the honour of a gentleman, that there was any truth in the taunts which had been uttered against him, that he had brought the subject forward in order to embarrass the Government and take advantage of the present state of feeling among parties with respect to the affairs of China. He merely wished to bring the question to a settlement. If the Judges declare the whole trade and monopoly to be illegal, he should have carried his point, and it would be for the Government of the country to devise a remedy, and to provide some substitute for the revenue that would then be taken from them. On the other hand, if the Judges declare the system to be legal, he should be able to appeal to the people of England against this great national sin.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said he was not aware of any precedent which would justify the course suggested by the noble Earl. The Judges were called upon to give their opinions in judicial cases, or to assist their lordships in cases of appeal. But this was another matter. The hypothesis of his noble friend was, that the company had been violating the laws of the land. If that were so, they were liable to be tried and punished; but the issue should not be decided by any tribunal behind their backs. The Government was willing to submit the question to the highest law officers of the Crown, and, when their opinion was obtained, it would be laid before the House. Dealing with the produce of one's own land does not constitute commerce in the eyes of the law; and if the East India Company, in order to turn their land to the best advantage, had cultivated opium, that was not commerce.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY said he was willing to withdraw his motion on the understanding that the case should be referred to the law officers of the Crown.—Earl GREY, while applauding this determination, expressed his opinion that the question could not be settled upon the legal technicalities of an Act of

Parliament. No legal enactment would check the abuse of opium; but our trading in it with China is a disgrace to us. It had been announced that a negotiator was to supplant Sir John Bowring. He trusted that some person would be appointed who would command the confidence both of that and the other House; and that he would be sent out with instructions, not only to settle the present differences, but to take the best means for re-establishing peaceful relations with China, on grounds consistent with the substantial interests of this country. The war at Canton had already led to frightful evils, not only in the destruction of life and property there, but in the falling off of the tea trade in England, and consequent injury to the revenue.—The Earl of ALBEMARLE begged to recal the attention of their Lordships to the question before them. Much misapprehension existed in this country as to the smuggling of opium. Legally, in China, the trade in opium is prohibited, but practically it is free. To a certain extent, the Chinese are dram-drinkers, though whenever they could get opium they prefer it. But, if they had not the latter, they would resort to the former, and there could be no doubt that opium eating is a much milder form of vice than dram-drinking. When not carried to excess, it is less deleterious in its effects upon the human frame than is generally supposed.—Earl GRANVILLE denied that there was any truth in the assertion that the smuggling of opium into China is encouraged or connived at by the English colonial authorities at Hong-Kong. Government intends to despatch an envoy to Canton in order to place on a satisfactory basis our relations with the Chinese Empire.—After a little further desultory conversation, the motion was withdrawn, it being understood that their Lordships would not be in any way committed or bound by the decision at which the law officers of the Crown might arrive.

Their lordships then adjourned.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, several bills, which were coming on for the second reading, were withdrawn, pending the election of the new Parliament.

NESTORIAN CHRISTIANS—PERSIA.

Replying to Mr. ASHLEY PELLATT, Mr. VERNON SMITH said that instructions had been sent to Mr. Murray on the subject of the amelioration of the condition of Christians in Persia.

SOUND DUES AND TRANSIT DUES.

In answer to Mr. GEORGE DUNDAS, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that a treaty had been negotiated with Denmark for the remission of the Sound Dues by the principal powers of Europe, including Austria, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Hanover, Mecklenburg Schweren, Prussia, Russia, Sweden and Norway, and he expected that it would be signed this week. The subject negotiated was not merely the remission of the Sound Dues, but also the reduction of transit dues. He could not state what the precise amount would be, but he believed not less than four-fifths of the whole amount of the dues.

RETIREMENT OF THE SPEAKER.

Before the orders of the day were read, the SPEAKER said that, under the present circumstances, a dissolution of Parliament being imminent, he felt it due to the House to state that it was his intention to retire from Parliament at the close of the present session. He could not contemplate the termination of his eighteen years' occupancy of the post of Speaker without sincere and grateful acknowledgments for the uniform confidence and support he had received, not only from all parties in the House, but from every individual member of the House. (Loud cheers.) He was quite aware that he had much need of their kind indulgence, especially of late, when he had been too frequently reminded of his failing abilities to do justice to the task committed to him. (Cries of "No, no!") He had always endeavoured to uphold those great and ancient rules of the House which contribute to the freedom of discussion and the independence of the Legislature; and he could not be sufficiently grateful for the cordial co-operation he had received from all sides. (Loud and prolonged cheering.)

Lord PALMERSTON paid a high compliment to the retiring Speaker, and stated that on the following day he should move a vote of thanks to Mr. Lefevre.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

On the motion of Lord PALMERSTON, it was agreed that, on Thursdays, orders of the day should have precedence of notices of motion.

WAYS AND MEANS.

The report on the tea and sugar duties was brought up and agreed to.

INCOME-TAX BILL.

On the order for the second reading of this bill, Mr. DISRAELI, alluding to our hostilities with Persia and China, and to the cost which they involved, inquired how, under so "turbulent and aggressive a system of diplomacy" even severance of the income-tax could be taken off. He would not oppose the bill, but he advised a more conciliatory foreign policy.—After a somewhat discursive debate, in which Mr. COCHRANE, Mr. WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Sir HENRY WILLOUGHBY, Mr. MUNTZ, and other members took part, Lord PALMERSTON vindicated the foreign policy of the Government from the charge of being turbulent and aggressive, suggesting to Mr. Disraeli that that charge would not be a successful election-cry for him and his friends.

Mr. GLADSTONE reviewed the foreign policy of the Government, to which he objected, as exhibited in connexion with Persia, Naples (where either too much or too little had been done), China, and America. In connexion with the last-named country, he specially commented from the way in which the Government had conducted the whole controversy respecting the island of Euxine and several of the questions connected therewith. With respect to the income-tax, it would be well if, instead of the question of readjustment of the impost, the people would seriously consider whether they wish to have a perpetual uniform income-tax. That was a consummation to which we were rapidly approaching. In 1855, it appeared perfectly practicable that the income-tax should be brought to a close; and, notwithstanding what had occurred in the interim, he was convinced that such a course was still practicable. But the opportunity was rapidly passing away; and, if the people really desire to get rid of the tax, they should enter on a consideration of the public expenditure in a stricter temper than had been seen for many years.

Mr. MALINS thought the inequality of the income-tax could not be got rid of, if desirable; and he did not think it desirable. He agreed with Mr. Gladstone, that Lord Palmerston, in the Neapolitan intervention, had done too little or too much.—Mr. VERNON SMITH defended the foreign policy of the Government.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL spoke discursively on the subject of our relations with Naples (which, though he objected to their original suspension, he thought ought not to be resumed at present, as the King has shown no desire to change his form of Government), of the negotiations with China (which, he thought, if properly conducted, would lead to peace and to the establishment of commercial relations), and of the proceedings at the Paris Conference with reference to our maritime laws, which he hoped England would not resign, as they are the basis of her supremacy at sea.—In these last-mentioned views, Sir CHARLES KAYE fully concurred, while Mr. CORDEN said he thought he should be able to produce, at the right time, arguments which would have the effect of causing Lord John Russell to change his opinion.

Further remarks, of a very discursive nature, were offered by Mr. HENRY DRUMMOND, Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE, Mr. MONCKTON MILNES, Mr. WHITESIDE, and Sir FREDERICK KELLY.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said, with regard to communications from the Government of America, respecting the freedom from seizure of enemies' goods in enemies' merchant ships, and also of goods of neutrals carried in the vessels of belligerents, that the importance of the subject was recognized by the Government, and should receive their earnest consideration.—Lord HARRY VANE denied that there was any violation of compact in regard to the increased income-tax, but at the same time expressed his hope that the increase would be found not to be long necessary.

The bill was then read a second time.

SUPPLY.—THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

The House having resolved itself into a Committee of Supply on the Navy Estimates, Sir CHARLES WOOD said, as he proposed to take votes on account, he did not think it necessary to go at length into the different items; he therefore only explained the reasons why he had been unable to make a reduction of the number of men to the extent he had expected. The men were mostly continuous service men, and were indisposed to leave the service; and he believed the House would bear with him in his unwillingness to turn them away. He should move a vote for the number of men (38,700 seamen and 15,000 marines) for four months only, and the money votes he should ask were one-third of the estimates, amounting in the aggregate to 2,700,000*l.*—The several votes were agreed to, after discussion.

BREACHES OF TRUST.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL obtained leave to bring in a bill to make fraudulent breaches of trust and duty by trustees, directors, and agents, criminally punishable.

The House adjourned at a quarter past ten o'clock.

Tuesday, March 10th.

JOURNALS AND MINUTES OF THE HOUSE.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, Earl STANHOPE called the attention of their lordships to the report of the select committee on the minutes and journals of the House, who recommended the adoption by their lordships of the system at present observed in taking divisions in the House of Commons.—After some discussion, the resolution was agreed to, with some amendments, Lord Stanhope consenting to withdraw the proposition to make it a standing order.

Some other business, of no general interest, was transacted, and the House adjourned.

The first business of importance in the HOUSE OF COMMONS was the

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE SPEAKER.

Lord PALMERSTON delivered an eloquent speech on the great services rendered to the House by the courtesy, the knowledge of the forms of Parliament, the promptitude of decision, the justness of argument, the firmness of purpose, and the natural dignity, combined with conciliatory manners, for which the retiring Speaker had been celebrated. He concluded by moving "that the thanks of this House be conveyed to Mr. Speaker for his exemplary conduct in the chair during the eighteen years he has filled it, for the ability

with which he has maintained the privileges of the House, regulated the order of business, and contributed thereby to the public interest." (*Loud and prolonged cheers*).—Mr. DISRAELI seconded the resolution, and vied with Lord Palmerston in bearing enthusiastic testimony to the merits of Mr. Shaw Lefevre.—The SPEAKER then read the resolution, which was loudly applauded.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL followed, adding his praises to those which had gone before.—The SPEAKER again read the resolution, amidst great cheering, and it was carried by a general shout of assent. It was then announced that "The Ayes have it," amidst renewed cheering.—The SPEAKER having, with much emotion, thanked the House for their great kindness,

Lord PALMERSTON, following the precedent in such matters, moved "that an humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying that her Majesty may be pleased to confer some mark of the Royal favour upon the Speaker, and assuring her Majesty that the House will make good any expense which may be attendant on such marks of the Royal favour." (*Loud and continued applause*).—Sir JOHN PAKINGTON seconded the resolution, and delivered a panegyric on the official life of the Speaker.—The resolution was carried unanimously.—Lord PALMERSTON next moved that the thanks of the House be given to Mr. Speaker for what he had said on that occasion; and that the same be inserted in the records of the House. This also was unanimously affirmed.

THE LAND TRANSPORT CORPS.

Mr. DUNCOMBE called attention to the grievances complained of in the petitions of the non-commissioned officers and drivers of the Land Transport Corps who served during the late war in the Crimea, and moved that they be referred to a select committee. It appears that the Government still owes, in some cases, as much as 14*l.* or 15*l.* to the men, who have not received their legal discharge, and are therefore unable to obtain other employment.

The motion was seconded by General CODRINGTON.—Mr. FREDERICK PEEL said that the corps had been very hurriedly got together to meet a great emergency, and without that strictness of scrutiny which perhaps was necessary. Upon the termination of the war, the men were brought home, and reduced, as other portions of the army were, out of motives of economy; but very few of them have now any claim on the Government. If any of them had been unable to obtain employment for want of a proper discharge, they should have applied to the authorities at the Horse Guards, or to the War Department, to ascertain whether the quality of their certificates arose from any imputation upon their characters. They might have had a complete discharge but for an application for continued payment up to the time of receiving that document, which of course could not be listened to. As to the question of gratuities, if the Government were to give them to the Land Transport Corps upon their reduction, they ought in justice to grant a gratuity to every man connected with the army who had been discharged. The hon. member for Finsbury had stated that he would press for the appointment of a committee unless it could be shown that the claims of the men for certain compensation due to them, for clothing not issued, had been satisfactorily adjusted. It was quite true, owing to the hurried manner in which the corps was raised, that the men were not furnished with clothing at the moment of their enlistment, and undoubtedly, according to the usual practice, they were entitled to compensation. A great number of such claims did exist; but he had been assured by Colonel M'Murdo that, with the exception of a very few cases, which were daily being adjusted, the whole of these claims had been settled. However, he would not oppose the motion.—Sir JOHN TYNELL attributed the difficulties of the Government to the parsimony of the peace-at-any-price party.—Sir JAMES FERGUSON said he was dissatisfied with the reply of the Under-Secretary for War. The men of the Land Transport Corps were left to starve about the streets, while the foreign legionaries were liberally treated.—The same feelings were also expressed by Mr. DUNCOMBE in a few supplementary words; and the motion was agreed to.

RACEHORSE DUTY.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER brought in a bill to amend the Act of last session for repealing and reimposing under new regulations the duty on racehorses. The object of the bill was not to make any alteration in the duty itself, but merely in the mode of collection.—It was read a first time.

THE CINQUE PORTS.

Mr. WILSON brought in a bill to correct an error in the Cinque Ports Act, which was read a first time.

THE INCOME-TAX.

The House having resolved itself into a Committee upon the Income-tax Bill, Sir FREDERICK KELLY, after protesting against the departure from the policy of 1853, moved to substitute 5*l.* for 7*l.* in the pound in the tax upon incomes for the ensuing year.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, in opposing the amendment, argued that the supposed moral contract of 1853 had been based upon an assumption that there would be a continuance of peace; but the very foundation of the settlement had been subverted by the war. So far as the Government was at present advised, it would not be necessary to make any addition to the

estimates on account of the Chinese war.—The amendment was negatived.

Mr. WILLIAMS moved that incomes below 150*l.* be exempted from the tax.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said the rate of the tax upon this class of persons would be reduced by the Act more than one-half, and 350,000*l.* a year was a larger sum than he felt himself justified in asking the House to surrender.—The amendment was negatived upon a division by 53 to 7.—The Bill then passed through the Committee.

SUPPLY.

On the report of the Committee of Supply, Mr. GLADSTONE moved a resolution that, in order to secure to the country that relief from taxation which it justly expects, it is necessary, in the judgment of this House, to revise and further reduce the expenditure of the State. The position of the House, he remarked, was peculiar and unexampled. Strong objections were entertained to the amount of the Estimates, and, had the deliberations of Parliament not been affected by the prospect of a dissolution, the House would probably have remitted the Estimates to the Government for further reduction. Of these Estimates, so objected to, one-third was to be voted for four months, for no other reason than that the Government had been visited by a vote of censure, and that they had appealed to the country. The effect of his motion was not to assert an abstract principle, nor to interpose any obstacle to a vote of supply, but to refer back the Estimates to the Government for reduction, and to express an opinion that they should apply themselves during the interval before the next Parliament, to the examination of the Estimates, with a view to a reduction of expenditure. He thought that a deficiency of revenue stared the House in the face; and he objected to the great increase of the national expenditure which had marked the last few years.—The amendment was seconded by Mr. WILLIAMS.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER thought there was much in Mr. Gladstone's speech which deserved consideration; but he declined to follow him into details. He did not anticipate any deficiency in the ensuing years. The new Parliament would be competent to examine the Estimates, which he thought were not extravagant, though large.—Mr. GLYN conceived that the House had fallen into considerable error by taking the Committee of Ways and Means before the Committee of Supply.—Mr. NEWDEGATE spoke in favour of increased control over the expenditure.—Mr. DISRAELI protested against a proposal to refer the Estimates to a committee, and expressed a hope that the new Parliament (which, as he observed amidst some laughter, would probably be full of vigour, and "renovated from the embraces of the people") would hold the Government well to its duty. But he regarded it as arrogant on the part of several distinguished members to say what they meant to do in the next Parliament, to which they might never be elected. The amendment was negatived, and the report was agreed to.

The EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY PLACES BILL passed through committee, after some discussion, and, other bills having been advanced a stage, the House adjourned.

Wednesday, March 11th.

ECCLIESIASTICAL CORPORATIONS BILL.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, on the order for the second reading of this bill, the Marquis of Blandford announced his intention to withdraw it, but at the same time briefly explained its general objects, which were, the transfer of the kind of property in question to the hands of Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and the application of the proceeds to the providing and increasing of endowments. He was ready to reconsider the measure, so as to meet the objections that had been urged against it.—Mr. WALPOLE intimated his general approval of the measure; and Mr. EVELYN DENISON suggested that it would be better to wait till the introduction of a bill, which was inevitable, on the subject of the Ecclesiastical Commission.

SUPPLY.

The House then went into Committee of Supply on the Civil Service and Revenue Estimates, when a vote of 1,558,200*l.* for the former (including education), and one of 1,510,000*l.* for the latter, were agreed to.

Several bills were forwarded a stage, or withdrawn, and the House adjourned.

Thursday, March 12th.

THE SUCCESSION DUTY.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, Lord MONTEAGLE intimated his design of calling the attention of their Lordships to the succession duty, and remarked that, instead of its producing a large sum, as expected, it had only yielded one-third of the estimated amount. Both sides, therefore, had been arguing on fallacious grounds.

THE APPEAL TO THE COUNTRY.

The Earl of DERRY gave notice that on the second reading of the Income-tax Bill he should trouble their Lordships with a few observations relative to the circumstances under which the appeal was about to be made to the country.

CHINA.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH moved for certain returns connected with the execution by the British authorities in China of the Supplemental Treaty of 1847. Those returns related to three articles of that treaty, which

aimed at the prevention of smuggling and illicit trade; and, now that we were disposed to be severe on the Chinese as to their execution of treaty obligations, it was desirable to know whether English officials had been scrupulous in their observance of those obligations. He trusted that the steps Government was about to take would not embitter the quarrel.—Lord PARNMUR, while admitting the badness of the time of year for sending troops to China, said that he did not see how that step could be avoided. The men were already under orders for India, and they would proceed there if, on their arrival in China, they found that their services were not needed. It had been determined not to employ any of the native troops of India in China.—In answer to Earl GREY, who inquired if the Government had received by the last mail despatches of an alarming nature, the Earl of CLARENDON said that Admiral Seymour had announced his intention of abandoning some of his positions before Canton, owing to the threatening aspect of affairs at Hong-Kong, where his presence was needed. There was no objection to producing the returns moved for by Lord Ellenborough.—The motion was then agreed to.

The Commons' ENCLOSURE BILL was read a third time, and passed.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. FITZROY moved a series of resolutions to enable private bills to be taken up in the new Parliament at the respective stages to which they had arrived in the present session.

COUNCIL AT MALTA.

In reply to Mr. KINNAIRD, Mr. LABOUCHERE said the Government had thought it expedient to recommend that an Order in Council should be passed, by which Judges of the superior courts in Malta should not be held eligible for seats in the council.

SMITHFIELD.

Lord ROBERT GROSVENOR inquired whether the Government was prepared to give effect to the recommendation of the Smithfield Committee, viz., that the best appropriation for the general benefit of so much of the site of Smithfield as reverts to the Crown, would be to adapt it for the enjoyment and recreation of the public.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER stated that, on the 26th of July, 1856, a report was made by the Smithfield Committee, and was sent to the City Remembrancer, with an intimation that it would be the duty of the Government, at the opening of Parliament, to introduce a bill for the appropriation of the site. On the 3rd of last December, the City replied that they dissented from the report of the committee, and could not recognise the right of the Crown to the site; and they requested the Treasury to consent to the plan for a dead meat market. On the 20th of December, the Treasury replied that they could not consent to the plan, but asked for information as to the appropriation of the site to public purposes. No answer to that communication had as yet been received.

SIR JOHN McNEILL AND COLONEL TULLOCH.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Mr. EWART, whether "it be the intention of Government to make any further recognition of the services of Sir John McNeill and Colonel Tulloch in the Crimea," stated that he thought an ample recognition had been given of the valuable services of those gentlemen. The Crown had done all that Ministers considered it to be their duty to advise.

On the order for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. PALK moved a series of resolutions to the effect that Sir John McNeill and Colonel Tulloch had ably fulfilled the duty which they were sent to the Crimea to execute; that the army had suffered a frightful mortality in December, 1854, and January, 1855; that there had been proved to be a want of organization in the Quartermaster-General's, Commissariat, and Transport services; and that this inefficiency must be attributed to the imperfect arrangement or conduct of those departments. In support of these resolutions, Mr. Palk recapitulated the details of our disasters during the Crimean war, with which the reader is already sufficiently acquainted.—Mr. BLACK seconded the motion, conceiving that the Crimean Commissioners had been greatly ill-used, and that the affair was "a sham" on the part of the Government.

Lord PALMERSTON denied that there was any "sham" at all in the matter, and said that Mr. Palk's speech was obsolete, by two years. He had a high opinion of the services of Sir John McNeill and Colonel Tulloch; but he thought the medical commission had rendered still more important services, and he could not agree to the motion, which he hoped Mr. Palk would not press to a division.—The motion was strongly opposed by Sir JOHN FITZGERALD and General PEEL, the latter of whom attributed the miseries of our army to our commencing operations without a reserve, with small means, and with a divided command, in obedience to the popular clamour for pushing on the operations vigorously. Individuals were not to blame; but some had been reproached most unjustly. He thought the services of the Crimean Commissioners had been somewhat overrated; but he vindicated the proceedings of the Chelsea Board, of which he had been a member.—Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT admitted that the Government of which he had been a member had been much to blame for attempting too much. He thought, also, that the services of the Commissioners were important, and that they had not

received justice; and he proposed that amendments should be introduced into the resolution, so that it should stand thus:—"That Sir John McNeill and Colonel Tulloch ably fulfilled the duty intrusted to them of inquiring into the arrangement and management of the Commissariat Department, and, considering the able services rendered by them and the high testimony in their favour by her Majesty's Government, that an humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying that some especial mark of approbation be conferred upon them."—Sir JOHN PAKINGTON supported the proposition.—Mr. EWART was also ready to adopt the proposition, to which Mr. Palk acceded.—Lord PALMERSTON deferred to what appeared to be the opinion of the House, and the original motion being withdrawn, the amended motion was agreed to.

PROMOTIONS IN THE ARMY.

Sir JAMES FERGUSON drew attention to the present position of the non-commissioned officers promoted to commissions in the army during the war. He referred to the great expenditure of an ensign as compared with a sergeant, contending that it is the duty of the country, after promoting the sergeants to commissions, to preserve them from want.

SUPPLY.

The House then went into a Committee of Supply on the Army Estimates, when Mr. FREDERICK PEEL said, the money votes for these estimates were on account for four months only, and, as the whole votes would come before the ensuing Parliament, it would be more convenient not to anticipate discussion and explanations upon the money votes. The case was different with the number of men, which must be voted at once—namely, 126,796 men, being a reduction of 119,920 upon the vote of last year, which was for 246,716 men. Mr. Peel entered into various details relating to the different portions of the forces.—The several votes were agreed to, after discussion.

THE RETIREMENT OF THE SPEAKER.

Lord PALMERSTON read the reply of Her Majesty to the Address of the House, voted on Tuesday. The reply signified the Queen's intention to confer some signal mark of her regal favour upon the Speaker.

In a Committee of WAYS AND MEANS, 21,049,700L. Exchequer-bills were voted towards making good the supply.

The INCOME-TAX BILL was read a third time, and passed, after a short discussion.

The third reading of the EXTRA-PAROCIAL PLACES BILL likewise gave rise to a brief debate. It ultimately passed.

The ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION BILL, the INDEMNITY BILL, and the COPTHOLD AND ENCLOSURE COMMISSION BILL, were also respectively read a third time, and passed.

THE APPROACHING GENERAL ELECTION.

The week has developed an amazing literature of Election Intelligence. Facts and rumours have been put forth day after day in column after column of the morning papers, to an extent that would make a good-sized volume. Of course it is utterly impossible for us to emulate this prodigality of information; and we are therefore compelled to give only the chief facts of the chief places.

LONDON.—The candidates nominated for the metropolitan constituency will be found below, in an account of a meeting in the City for the settlement of preliminaries. Mr. Masterman retires. Lord John Russell, though ignored by the meeting alluded to, has issued an address offering himself for re-election, defending his late vote against the Government, and saying that he still adheres to his old watchwords, "peace, economy, and reform," though they appear at present to be out of favour.

WESTMINSTER.—Sir De Lacy Evans again stands for Westminster on Parliamentary Reform principles; Sir John Shelley offers himself as a supporter of Lord Palmerston; and Mr. Westerton, the well-known bookseller and churchwarden of Knightsbridge, comes forward on Liberal and Protestant principles.

LAMBETH.—Mr. Roupell, Liberal, has announced himself; and Mr. Williams (though exposed to some rough censure and cross-questioning at a meeting of the electors, on account of his vote on the China question) again comes forward. The meeting terminated in a vote of confidence in him.

MARTLEBONE.—Sir Benjamin Hall again stands for the borough.

MANCHESTER.—Messrs. Bright and Gibson have again been put in nomination; but their opponents, it has been rumoured, intend to bring forward Sir John Potter and the Right Hon. Robert Lowe, Vice-President of the Board of Trade.

LIVERPOOL.—Messrs. Horsfall and Ewart have a good chance of being re-elected. The Conservatives propose to bring forward a Mr. Turner, who is considered to have but a poor chance.

WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.—Mr. Cobden, following an intention formed by him some years ago, does not mean to come forward again for this constituency. The Liberal party has resolved to bring forward Lord Goderich, and not to oppose Mr. Evelyn Denison, the present member, unless another Conservative should appear in the field.

EAST RIDING.—No opposition is expected to the re-election of Lord Hotham and the Hon. Arthur Duncombe.

NORTH RIDING.—The Hon. J. C. Dundas, formerly M.P. for York, has announced himself as a candidate for the North Riding, the present representatives being the Hon. Colonel Duncombe and E. S. Cayley, Esq. It is understood that the opposition is directed against Mr. Cayley. Mr. Dundas is a Palmerstonian.

NORTH LANCASHIRE.—At a numerously attended meeting of the friends of liberal representation in the northern division, held on Wednesday afternoon, at Preston, it was, after discussion, unanimously resolved that Lord Cavendish, eldest son of the Earl of Burlington, should be placed in nomination for the vacant seat. Colonel Wilson Patten offers himself for re-election.

ROCHDALE.—Mr. Edward Miall will again stand for Rochdale, on anti-Palmerstonian principles.

PORTSMOUTH.—Lord Monck (one of the Government, and a member for the town) has met with an adverse reception at a meeting at Portsmouth.

TYNEMOUTH.—Mr. Lindsay (a Liberal, opposed to the Government) appears to have a good chance of re-election.

BRADFORD.—There is a split among the Liberals here—the Radicals supporting General Thompson, and the Whigs Mr. Salt. Mr. Wickham stands for the Conservatives.

SHEFFIELD.—Although they have given some dissatisfaction by their votes on the Chinese question, Messrs. Roebuck and Hadfield have received the ratification of a very large meeting.

SCARBOROUGH.—Lord Mulgrave announces himself again a candidate, as a decided supporter of Lord Palmerston.

HALIFAX.—Sir Charles Wood is again in the field.

NORWICH.—Mr. Warner, it is confidently stated, will not offer himself for re-election. The contest will probably lie between Lord Bury and Mr. Schneider, a gentleman who lately stood for Hull. Both are Liberals.

CHATHAM.—Sir Frederick Smith has been again brought forward by the Conservative party. Mr. Romaine, C.B., the Liberal candidate, has commenced his canvass, and appears to have an excellent chance of success.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—On Wednesday evening, a large public meeting was held in favour of the Liberal candidates, Mr. Torrens McCullagh and Mr. Watkins. The Conservatives have also held a meeting in support of Sir E. Lacon and the Hon. C. S. Vereker; and both parties are vigorously pursuing their canvass.

HEREFORDSHIRE.—Mr. Bateman Hanbury, Mr. King King, and Mr. Blakemore, the sitting members, have issued addresses seeking re-election.

KIDDERMINSTER.—Mr. Boycott has issued circulars to the burgesses, and Mr. Robert Lowe offers himself for re-election.

KING'S LYNN.—Lord Stanley again offers himself as a candidate.

DEVONPORT.—At a meeting of the ward committees on Wednesday evening, it was resolved to invite Ralph Bernal Osborne, Esq., to become a candidate at the ensuing election. Mr. James Wilson has issued an address to the electors. Sir Erskine Perry is carrying on an active canvass.

TAVISTOCK.—Sir J. S. Trelawny, Mr. George Byng, and Mr. Carter, are before the electors, on the Liberal interest. Dr. Phillimore's intentions are not yet known.

DEBBY.—Mr. Heyworth has retired. Mr. James, of the Chancery bar, and a connexion of Lord Belper by marriage, is a candidate, and has issued an address in which he professes liberal principles, and says he shall support Lord Palmerston.

DEVON (NORTH).—Mr. L. W. Buck retires on account of ill-health.

BATH.—We are delighted to see that a deputation of Liberal electors has been appointed to wait upon Sir Arthur H. Elton—a thorough Liberal, and a man of high culture.

GUILDFORD.—Already there are five candidates—the sitting members (Mr. Mangles and Mr. James Bell), and Mr. William Bovill, of Worpleston Lodge, near Guildford (Conservative), Mr. Austin, a local magistrate (Liberal), and Mr. Guildford Onslow (Liberal).

KENDAL.—Mr. Glyn, the sitting member, again comes forward.

TAUNTON.—Mr. Labouchere has issued his address to the electors. It is rumoured that the other member, Sir John Ramsden, intends offering himself to another constituency. Mr. Arthur Mills has therefore put forward an address.

COVENTRY.—Sir Joseph Paxton will stand for this borough.

BRIGHTON.—Mr. Coningham has issued an address to the electors, in which he speaks against the factious opposition to Lord Palmerston as evinced in the late vote on the China question, and states: "I am an ardent political and economical reformer; an advocate for the gradual extension of the electoral franchise, to meet the growing intelligence of the age; for the vote by ballot; and a disciple of those free trade doctrines which have so largely conduced to the development of our commerce and manufactures, and to the consequent prosperity of all classes."

EDINBURGH.—The present members, Mr. Cowan and Mr. Black, both intend to come forward again.

GLASGOW.—Mr. Buchanan, the gentleman elected last week to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. John Macgregor, will again offer himself. The other candidate is at present uncertain.

MEETINGS.

Meetings at Belfast and Sheffield have terminated in votes of confidence in Lord Palmerston. A meeting of Conservatives at Norwich, at which the principal speaker was Sir Samuel Bignold, one of the present members for the city, gave expression to views and feelings entirely opposed to the Premier. The same result has been arrived at by meetings at Scarborough, Stockton, Leeds, Darlington, and Exeter Hall, London, the last being convened by the peace party, who also carried a resolution against the largeness of our army and navy.

A meeting of the electors of London, convened by the Liberals, took place on Tuesday at the London Tavern, for the purpose of considering the state of the representation of the City, and to nominate candidates. The meeting was numerous and influentially attended, and the chair was occupied by Mr. Gregson, M.P., who, as a preliminary, moved "That it was the opinion of that association that the City of London should be represented on the present occasion by members connected with the commerce of the City of London." The resolution was adopted unanimously. Mr. Weguelin, M.P., then proposed Mr. Robert Wigram Crawford as a fit person to be one of their representatives. This was seconded by Mr. Gassiot, in the absence of Mr. Dillon. Mr. Raikes Currie, M.P., nominated, and Mr. Alderman Wire seconded, Baron Lionel de Rothschild. Mr. Alderman Wire next put Sir James Duke in nomination. Mr. Under-Sheriff Anderton seconded. Mr. Deputy Dakin proposed Mr. Raikes Currie, M.P.; who found a seconder in Mr. Morley. Some excitement was then caused by Mr. Alderman Salomons and Mr. J. A. Hankey accusing Sir James Duke of having given his vote against, and otherwise opposed, the recent Liberal candidate for East Sussex, though Sir James professed Liberal opinions. Mr. Alderman Wire, in the midst of some interruption, explained that the cause of Sir James voting in the way he did was because he held conscientious scruples on the subject of Maynooth, which differed from the views of the Liberal candidate.—The nominated candidates for the City having addressed the meeting, Mr. Alderman Salomons moved "that that meeting regretted the termination of the connexion which had so long subsisted between Lord John Russell and the constituency of London." Mr. Reed seconded the motion, and Mr. Bennoch opposed it, conceiving it a strange course to pursue while his Lordship was still their member. Ultimately, the motion was withdrawn, and the meeting was adjourned to that day week (next Tuesday).

Sir Erskine Perry, the Liberal M.P. for Devonport, addressed a crowded meeting of his constituents on Monday night, with a view to showing that, though he felt it his duty to vote with Mr. Cobden's motion on the China question, he is, generally speaking, an enthusiastic admirer of Lord Palmerston, and has no desire to see his administration supplanted.

THE LITERARY FUND.

THE annual general meeting of the members of this fund was held at the house of the association, Great Russell-street, on Wednesday. Earl Stanhope took the chair, and there were also present Sir Benjamin Bond Cabbell, M.P., the Bishop of Oxford, Mr. Monckton Milnes, M.P., Mr. John Forster, Mr. Charles Dickens, Mr. Wentworth Dilke, Mr. Dickenson, &c. The usual formal business was disposed of, and the financial report read, which gave a good account of the progress of the society, and showed that its income exceeded its expenditure by a small balance, which was added to the funded stock of the association. On the motion that the report be received and adopted, Mr. Dilke, sen., moved a resolution which, under a number of heads, condemned the entire management of the fund,—first, because, according to its last report, it expended 574l. 18s. 3d. in relieving 53 cases, while the Artists' General Benevolent Fund, in relieving 68 cases, only expended 85l.; secondly, because the Literary Fund expended 200l. per annum on the maintenance of a house, and allowed 200l. per annum to its secretary; thirdly, because the accounts of the Literary Fund were not in a satisfactory state, as evidenced by their stating that the house fund, amounting to 6540l., was still in existence as a separate amount of the society's credit, whereas the books of the society showed that that fund never had been in existence at all; and, lastly, because the Literary Fund, though not, on an average, giving away more than 1500l. per annum, appealed to the public for new subscriptions and donations while possessed of funded property to the amount of 30,000l., and of landed estates yielding 200l. per annum.

Mr. Robert Bell replied at considerable length, stating that an immense number of cases had been investigated; that the office of secretary had been created in 1836 on the motion of Mr. Dilke himself; that the accounts had been greatly the gainer since the engagement of the present secretary; that, contrary to some statements recently made in the *Athenaeum*, the late Mr. Haydn had

received no less than 200l. from the funds of the society in six years, while one of his sons had been got into the St. Ann's Asylum through the exertions and expenditure of the Fund Committee; and that the error with regard to the house fund had originated in the fund crediting itself with the 200l. per annum granted in 1805 by the Prince of Wales towards a permanent fund for maintaining a house, and not counting the annual rent which had since been paid from that income.

Mr. Dickens supported Mr. Dilke's amendment, disclaiming all enmity to Mr. Blewett, the secretary, whose services he acknowledged, and whose sphere of usefulness he wished to see increased. He added: "The question as to the existence or not of the house fund was not a question of 1821, but of last year, because, on the second Wednesday of last March, they—the conspiring reformers (*a laugh*)—were put down by the solemn assertion of a resolution that there was a house fund of some 6400l. The subscription for such a fund was a complete failure. He took it upon himself to say that it did not exceed 600l., and the way in which this imaginary sum was got at was as follows: The Prince Regent allowed two hundred guineas a year to pay the rent of the house inhabited by the society, paid yearly or half-yearly, but the sums paid for rent had been put down as an accumulated fund, precisely as if they had it in hand at the present moment; so that the extraordinary statement made last year as to the existence of this sum never had any real foundation. If statements were so rashly made in that expensive little room he thought it would not be long before the society itself would fall into disrepute. He would, with their permission, give a short illustration of the mode in which this question had been dealt with. Let him suppose the case of a clerk in the receipt of 100l. a year, paid half-yearly, and every farthing of which is anticipated before he received it. His having received that income twenty years would hardly make him the possessor of 2000l. But he would carry the case further. Let them suppose a family picture, representing an estimable old gentleman bestowing the hand of his only daughter on the man of her heart, and saying to them, while tears of generosity coursed down his cheeks, 'My darling Emma, my dear Edward, take my blessing upon you each, and with my blessing accept these twenty years' receipts of my rent at 200l. a year, which your filial affection will at once enable you to perceive are equal to 4000l. Consols in perpetuity.' (*Loud laughter.*)

A long discussion followed, in which Mr. John Forster, the Bishop of Oxford, Mr. Monckton Milnes, and Mr. Dilke, sen., took part; and the last-named gentleman's motion was at length negatived by a majority of 69 to 11. Some usual routine business was then transacted, and the meeting terminated with the customary vote of thanks to the chairman.

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

A BARGE which was engaged last Sunday in conveying the oysters from a smack, which had just arrived at Shoreham, to the oyster pond, foundered, and the four men who were aboard were drowned. It is supposed that she was upset by a sudden squall. She was within six feet of the shore at the time of the accident.

Mr. Baker, the coroner, has held an inquest at the London Hospital on the body of Mary Ann Hicks, aged four years, whose parents reside at Widgate-street, Bishopsgate-street. The child was left for a short time in a room where there was a large fire, and, during the temporary absence of her mother, her dress ignited. An alarm was raised, and the flames were extinguished, but the child was dreadfully burnt. She was removed to the hospital, where she died on Friday week. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.—Mr. Baker has also received information respecting the death of Lydi Charlotte Penson, aged two years, of York-street, Commercial-road East, who died from the effects of injuries caused by the accidental ignition of her clothing.

Mr. R. R. Guinness, of Dublin, has been suddenly struck dead with apoplexy at the King's Bridge terminus of the Great Southern and Western Railway, Ireland, of which company he was a director. He was transacting business at the moment of death.

THE ORIENT.

PERSIA AND INDIA.

THE intelligence from Bushire by the last Indian mails is to the 23rd of January. The general health of the army was good, and supplies were plentiful. No further military operations had taken place. General Outram had not arrived. The Conferences between Sir John Lawrence and Dost Mahomed broke up on the 28th of January, when the Ameer left for Cabul. It is asserted that a British Residency is about to be established at Candahar. The Bombay money-market was easier. Imports were steady. At Calcutta, the improvement in the import market was well maintained. The New Five per Cent. Loan was progressing very slowly.

CHINA.

The Mandarin Governor of Whampoa, Tchyn-Too, has issued a proclamation to the people, apparently in

the name of the Emperor, commanding all men to attack and exterminate the English. Similar proclamations have been published in other parts of the empire.

The attempt to poison the community at Hong-Kong, has caused great consternation. One partner of the baking establishment has been arrested and committed for trial with nine other Chinese. Admiral Seymour has withdrawn from the Gardens and Dutch Folly Fort. As a reprisal for the treacherous attempt against the English, the Western suburbs of Canton have been burnt down. At Foochow, teas were arriving slowly and prices were high. At Shanghai, holders were looking out for a further rise.

The *Moniteur* publishes despatches from Hong-Kong to the 14th of January. They feared an insurrection at Hong-Kong itself. Sir John Bowring has made arrangements with Admiral Guérin, the French naval commander, and they took sufficient precautions to enable them to put down, in case of need, any such movement. It seems that this attitude of the French is due to instructions received by them by the very last mail. France and England had concerted, before knowing the events of Canton, to obtain from the Chinese Government a revision of the treaties which are about to expire, and the English and French representatives received despatches prescribing the joint and identical conduct which they would observe to attain this object. They were authorized to lend each other support and aid in all eventualities.—*Morning Post.*

EGYPT.

The French Consulate at Alexandria is said to have been persecuting the Roman exiles there. Many have been arrested and sent to Civita Vecchia.

AMERICA.

THE Senate has passed the bill to amend the tariff of 1846, and the Senate's Committee on Finance agreed to report amendments on the Tariff Bill. The House of Representatives has also passed a bill for a modification of the tariff. It provides simply for an addition to the free list on and after the 1st of next July, without proposing any other changes. It is substantially the same as reported at the close of the last session of Congress. One of the provisions is that only wool of the value at the port of importation of fifteen cents per pound or less, or fifty cents per pound, or over, shall be free; lead, hemp, iron, and sugar remain as at present. In the same House has been passed the Senate's joint resolution, for ascertaining and fixing the relative value of the coins of England and the United States.

Some sensation has been caused by an article in the *Washington Union*, which has been supposed to speak the sentiments of the incoming administration. It has reference to the Central American Treaty, and denounces, with considerable energy, all interference by England in America.

Very conflicting accounts have been received from Nicaragua. It seems, however, to be probable that Walker is in a position of very great difficulty, notwithstanding the success which he had gained over his enemies, according to the last previous advices. He appears to have received two repulses since then, and many of his men have deserted, by floating down the river on logs.

General Cass has been selected by President Buchanan as his Secretary of State, an office equivalent to that of Prime Minister. Mr. Cobb will be at the head of the Treasury. The other departments were not arranged at the date of the last advices.

Indictments have been found by the grand jury of New York against Eckel and Mrs. Cunningham, for the murder of Dr. Burdell. Dr. Moore, of New York, has been acquitted of the charge of conspiring to take the life of Mr. Alfred S. Livingston, of Trenton, New York. The trial lasted four days.—Accounts from Missouri state that great damage had been done by recent freshets in that State. The loss of the Iron Mountain Railroad is estimated at 200,000 dollars.

The report of the Committee appointed to investigate the charges of corruption against members of Congress was presented to the House on the 19th ult. The report recommends the expulsion of Messrs. Gilbert, Edwards, Welch, and Mattheson, and also the exclusion of Mr. Simonton, the reporter, from the floor of the House. After a protracted discussion, the further consideration of the subject was postponed.

Dr. Kane, the intrepid Arctic voyager, we regret to find, is dead.

The New York money market has been more quiet, and trade has been in a healthy condition.

The Mexican coast is blockaded by the Spanish naval forces.

STATE OF TRADE.

THE trade reports from the manufacturing towns for the week ending last Saturday present no new features. At Manchester, there has been a fair extent of business, the demand for India having improved since the arrival of the last mail. The Birmingham advices describe steadiness in the iron-market, although the American orders have not been so large as was anticipated. At Notting-

ham, the lace-market has been very active, the previous animation having been further stimulated by a demand from India; while for hosiery the home purchases have been on a good scale. But for the prospect of trade being affected by the general election, there would, it is said, be no doubt that, as regards the manufactures of that town, the present would prove one of the most prosperous years ever known. In the woollen districts and the Irish linen-markets, there has been no alteration.

—*Times*.
In the general business of the port of London during the same week there has been little change. The number of ships reported inward was 122, being 22 less than in the previous week. These included 31 with cargoes of grain, &c., 7 with cargoes of sugar, 5 with cargoes of dried fruit, and 2 with cargoes of tea; the latter including 31,170 packages, 21,399 of which were brought by the Earl of Eglington, 12,545 of her cargo being chests. The number of ships cleared outward was 117, including 12 in ballast, showing a decrease of 14.—*Idem*.

In consequence of the non-receipt of remittances expected from America, the firm of Messrs. Dodge, Bacon, and Co., merchants and patentees of India-rubber cloth, has been forced to suspend, with liabilities said to be upwards of 100,000*l*. It is hoped that the assets will yield a considerable dividend.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

THE Neuchâtel conferences proceed. "In the preliminary Conference held on Thursday week," according to the *Times* Paris correspondent, "at which neither the Prussian nor the Swiss Plenipotentiary was present, the renunciation of the Royal authority in the canton was proposed as the basis of future negotiations."

Some time since, the Paris papers were "invited" (that is, ordered) not to publish notices or advertisements about the Russian railroads. It appears that the managers of papers are now informed that the prohibition is removed.—*Times* Paris Correspondent.

The Prince and Princess Danilo, of Montenegro, have arrived at Paris. The former presents a very picturesque, semi-Oriental appearance; and so do his suite. The Princess is dressed in the Parisian fashion.

The trial of the directors of the Napoleon Docks Company for extensive frauds was concluded last Saturday, the 7th instant. The most remarkable feature of the trial was the assertion of Ministerial complicity made by M. Arthur Berryer, son of the distinguished advocate—the general upshot of which was stated in our leading columns last week. The young man was connected with the company, and it was his duty to watch over their proceedings. He stated in the course of the trial that M. Persigny (by whom he was appointed to the post, when that gentleman was Minister of Commerce), as well as M. Magne and M. Rouher, knew that the company had only from 85,000 to 86,000 shares subscribed for, though ostensibly starting with subscriptions for 200,000 shares. M. Haurier, formerly Director-General in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, denied the truth of this allegation; but M. Berryer would not admit that he had not spoken veraciously, but added that he possessed secrets, which, if hard pressed, he would disclose. The judgment, delivered last Saturday, condemns—M. Cusin to three years' imprisonment, and a fine of 5000*fr*.; M. Legendre to one year's imprisonment, and 2000*fr*. fine; M. Duchesne de Vere to six months, and 2000*fr*.; M. Berryer to two years, and 3000*fr*. M. Ori has been acquitted. MM. Cusin and Legendre were declared guilty of swindling and breach of trust; MM. Duchesne de Vere and Berryer guilty of complicity in the malversations which had been committed. After stating its conclusions at considerable length, the tribunal adjudged M. Berryer to restore the sum of 130,000*fr*., and MM. Cusin, Legendre, and Duchesne to give up the shares, &c., the amount of which is very considerable. It is announced that the accused mean to appeal against their sentence.

There are symptoms, according to a writer from Paris, of a strong opposition in the Senate to the Malakhoff pension, the objection being, not to the grant itself, but to its transmission to the male descendants, which is looked on as the establishment of a majorat, and consequently as an infraction of the Constitution, which recognises the equality of the citizens before the law.

A wealthy Greek shipowner has been found guilty by the Marseilles police-court of swindling the insurers of a ship which he owned of the sum of 230,000*fr*., the sum for which the vessel was insured. It was proved that the owner had received intimation of the wreck of the vessel previously to the insurance. The accused was sentenced to three years' imprisonment, a fine of 3000*fr*., and interdiction from civil rights for ten years.

ITALY.

The Austrian military authorities have made several arrests simultaneously at Bologna, Rimini, and Cesena. The prisoners will be tried by court martial. All of them were in the employment of Government.

The corn monopoly in the Roman States has led to a deplorable dearth of provisions. The Pope therefore bought large stores of grain, with the intention of selling them again to the people at a loss. But the holders of

grain, seeing their opportunity, demanded and obtained an enormous price; and it is supposed that they will repurchase the grain of the Government, and again sell it at a still higher figure.

Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe is at present in Rome. She has had a rather disastrous journey. The steamer which conveyed her from Genoa to Civita Vecchia came into collision with a coasting vessel, lost one of her paddle-wheels, and arrived at the latter place in a very crippled condition. While on the road to Rome, a wheel came off the carriage in which the authoress and her party were riding. Being roughly fastened on again, it came off a second time in the streets of Rome, and the travellers were upset, and had to sit on their luggage in the road till the arrival of a more trusty vehicle. Mrs. Stowe will ultimately go to Naples.

Count Cavour's note in answer to Count Buol's strictures on the freedom of the Italian press has not met with much favour among the liberals of Sardinia. It is thought to be too long, too diplomatically diffuse, and to admit too much with respect to the alleged licence of the Republican journals. The note, however, is understood to have been very much approved by the Cabinets of London and Paris, by whom the remonstrances of the Austrian Minister are said to be looked on as uncalled for and needlessly susceptible.

The *Italia e Popolo* (Mazzini's organ) will reappear in a few days. In the meanwhile, a paper called the *Italia del Popolo* is published for the advocacy of similar principles.

PORTUGAL.

The English mails by the packet Madrid, which was wrecked at Vigo on the 20th ult., only reached Lisbon on the morning of the 27th, in charge of Lieutenant Thomas Tickell, who brought them on horseback and on foot to Coimbra, and thence by rail. The Lieutenant appears to have acted with amazing energy and determination, having to undergo very great fatigue with insufficient nourishment; yet, owing to the almost savage state of the Portuguese roads, he was a week in accomplishing his journey.

RUSSIA.

Russia has just entered for the first time into official relations with a South American republic, having exchanged a treaty between herself and the republic of Venezuela.

Great complaints are made in Finland of the tyrannical oppression of the national spirit by the Russian Government; and this in spite of the fact that each successive emperor has sworn to uphold the constitution. The Finnish youth are continually drafted off for the Czar's armies, though the said constitution enacts that no Finnish soldier or sailor shall be sent out of the country without the express consent of the parliament, which, however, has never been once summoned since the seizure of the country by Russia. Added to these grievous evils are the horrors of famine.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

News has been received from Jassy to the effect that M. Vorogides, hitherto Minister of Finance, has been nominated Kaimakan of Moldavia, instead of M. Balache, whose death took place on the 1st inst.

The evacuation of the country by the Austrians, which had been interrupted, has now been resumed. Their staff has left Jassy.

The tracing of the Moldavian frontier in Upper Yalpuick is terminated. The town and territory of Komrat were, it is said, officially handed over to the Russian authorities on March 2nd.

"The obstinacy with which Austria persists in her opposition to the union of the Principalities," says a letter from St. Petersburg, "has drawn forth a very energetic reply from the Russian Government. Prince Gortschakoff declared to Count Buol, through Baron Budberg, that Russia would respond to the formation of an Austrian corps on the Wallachian frontier by the formation of a Russian corps on the Moldavian frontier, so as to create a counterpoise to the pressure exercised by Austria."

THE LAW OF LIBEL AND THE NEWSPAPER PRESS.

THE case of Davison v. Duncan and another, on the legal bearings of which, as touching the law of libel in connexion with newspapers, Lord Campbell has already given an opinion, came on for trial before Mr. Justice Crompton at the Durham Assizes last Friday week. The case being one of considerable importance and interest, we give the whole of the report complained of:—

"WEST HARTLEPOOL IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION.—At a meeting of the commissioners held on the 7th of October, present Ralph Ward Jackson, chairman, James Davison, and several other persons named, it was resolved that the Report of the Market Committee be received and adopted. A document in connexion with the West Hartlepool Cemetery, which had been received by the clerk from Mr. Joseph Davison, of Durham (the plaintiff), was then put in and read. It professed to be a license from the Bishop (Maltby) to the Rev. John Hart Burges, as chaplain to the cemetery, and recited in

the usual way that, in pursuance of a petition, his Lordship had, &c. On the reading of the document several of the commissioners expressed their surprise and astonishment both in connexion with its object and contents. No petition for any such license had been presented either by the commissioners or the town, nor could they understand the necessity for any such document, seeing that the cemetery had been already consecrated, and that the legal incumbent of Christ Church, *virtute officii*, was necessarily, under the act of Parliament, the proper chaplain. The chairman quite concurred in the opinion which had been expressed upon the subject. The license appeared to him to be a clumsy device on the part of Mr. Davison (the plaintiff), alone to give Mr. Burges a legal status in the cemetery; for it appeared that the Bishop had openly disavowed any such license, and had authorized such disavowal to be communicated to the board that day. The Rev. H. R. Ridley stated that on Saturday last he received a communication from Mr. Burges to the effect that he (Mr. Burges) had received a proper license from the Bishop to the chaplaincy of the cemetery, and that all doubt as to his right to officiate there was now removed. Being quite at a loss to understand what was meant by such an intimation, he at once, as vicar of the parish, put himself in communication with the Bishop, and he had that morning received a reply from Auckland Castle to the following effect:—"The Bishop desires it to be made known that a document represented by Mr. Joseph Davison to be a mere license for the West Hartlepool Cemetery was laid before him for his signature. No name was, however, mentioned in the license, and certainly not Mr. Burges's. If Mr. Burges's name had appeared in the document, the Bishop would at once have declined to execute it." The Bishop desired that his reply might be communicated to the Commissioners at their first meeting. A Commissioner: "It would appear, then, that the whole proceeding had been a fraud upon the Bishop, and was upon the public." Mr. Ridley: "It would appear so." A Commissioner: "I think such a proceeding is a great scandal upon the Church." Mr. Ridley: "I don't see that. It is in my opinion merely a scandal upon a Mr. Joseph Davison, the late Bishop's secretary. The Church has nothing to do with it." After some further discussion, the following resolution was unanimously agreed to, and a copy ordered to be sent to the Bishop at Auckland Castle:—"Resolved, that the Commissioners do not admit the necessity of any such document, and, being now informed that the Bishop himself repudiates it, the Commissioners decline to recognize its validity."

The plaintiff laid his damages at 1000*l*. The defendants pleaded, firstly, Not Guilty; secondly, that the words and matters contained in the libel were true; and thirdly, that the report was just, faithful, and accurate, and published without malice. The second of these pleas they afterwards withdrew, the plaintiff having denied on his oath that the charges against him were true. Evidence in his favour having been adduced, Mr. Hill, for the defence, contended that Mr. Davison ought to have first sent an explanation to the newspaper; instead of which, he issued the writ six days after the publication of the report. There could be no question that the publication was entirely devoid of malice; and Mr. Hill therefore hoped that the jury, if they found for the plaintiff, would only give the smallest coin of the realm for damages. The Judge, in summing up, said that there could be no doubt as to the fact of the publication being a libel:—

"There is no obligation on the press to publish matters of this kind, so as to protect them in the way that a man is protected in giving what he believes to be a true character of a servant. Proceedings in courts of justice may also lawfully be published. The charge that the plaintiff had attempted a fraud upon the Bishop and the public is, in my opinion, libellous. It is said that you should consider the conduct of the plaintiff in not explaining the matter to the defendants before bringing the action. Generally it is best not to answer a newspaper attack, for you often get the worst of it. A letter of explanation may be followed by another attack more hurtful than the first. Still, when the libel is published evidently under a mistake of facts—a mistake into which newspaper editors, like other people, may fall—it is for you to say whether it would not have been better for the plaintiff to have given the defendants an opportunity of rectifying that mistake."

The jury, after an hour's deliberation, gave a verdict for the plaintiff on the first two issues—damages, one farthing; and for the defendants on the last issue, being of opinion that the report was correct, and published without malice. Mr. Justice Crompton refused to certify that the libel was wilful and malicious.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.

A MEETING was held before Mr. Commissioner Hobroyd on Wednesday, for the purpose of examining Mr. Edward Fadaile, the late Governor, who was submitted to a searching cross-examination by Mr. Linklater, and made some extraordinary admissions. The results has been thus summarized into a readable narrative in the leading columns of the *Times*:—

"The Royal British Bank commenced business on the 19th of November, 1849, with a capital of 100,000*l.*, in shares of 100*l.* each. According to the Act for the regulation of such concerns, 50,000*l.* of this capital ought to have been actually paid up, but the witness admitted that this provision had not, in reality, been complied with. The subscriptions received were not all in cash, some being in 'the representatives of cash,' a phrase afterwards explained by the statement that the balance, or amount not paid up in money, was 'represented by notes of hand, which were deemed to be equivalent to cash.' In point of fact, the representation of the certificate addressed to the Board of Trade on the occasion was, 'so far as that the 50,000*l.* was not in sovereigns or bank-notes, incorrect,' though it does not appear, if we apprehend the case correctly, that the difference here was very great, as the cash portion amounted to nearly 43,000*l.* out of the whole. Another incident, however, of this part of the history is delineated immediately afterwards. Mr. Linklater, who appeared for the assignees, implied very plainly that the directors were supposed to have borrowed money before the opening of the bank for the purpose of placing it to the credit of the account, and to have drawn it out again directly this purpose had been answered. The witness accordingly was asked, first for his knowledge, and then for his belief on this point, and was shrewdly pressed both by Mr. Linklater and the Commissioner. His reply was, that he 'had no belief upon the subject. His mind was a blank upon the subject entirely; he had no belief,' and with this answer the Court was fain to be content.

"Passing to the management of the bank, we are introduced not only by description, but bodily, to the notorious 'pocket ledger' of Mr. Cameron, the general manager, which appears in the shape of a large green volume. It was kept in Mr. Cameron's private room, and 'might have been accessible' to the directors, but 'it was not their practice to refer to it.' Mr. Esdaile had been a director of the bank from its commencement; on the 1st of February, 1855, he became its governor, and then, but not before that time, he became cognizant of the contents of this book. He there found that accounts had been opened in the books of the bank with seven of the directors, including Mr. Cameron himself. According to a rule of the bank, no such accounts should have been opened, except under the precise sanction of the finance committee, but the witness 'did not know that that rule was strictly observed upon the opening of drawing and discount accounts of the directors themselves; they would not, probably, have gone through that same routine.' With respect to a particular transaction in which the witness himself was concerned, he said that 'if the thing had been rigorously treated, perhaps application to the finance committee ought to have been made, but that rule never applied to a director's account.' We are not long in discovering the results of this indulgent relaxation. Mr. Cameron stands indebted to the bank for upwards of 19,000*l.* Mr. Esdaile admitted that one of the solicitors to the bank, who died in 1853, had borrowed several thousand pounds of the bank, which could not be recovered; that he had deposited as security deeds which had afterwards to be surrendered without consideration, as the property of others; and yet that, up to the close of 1853, so perfectly were the directors impressed with the integrity of his character, that on the 13th of December they were desirous of recording, by formal resolution, 'their regard for his memory, and their lively recollection of his social and many amiable qualities.' It further appeared, too, that whereas by law the bank was debarred from making advances on the security of its own shares, advances were made for which shares were deposited.

"On the matter of advances, Mr. Esdaile seems to represent the case for the directors mainly by what he said concerning the transactions of Mr. Cameron—viz., that they were not cognizant, but had the means of being so. 'That,' said he, 'is where the *laches* has been no doubt. I admit that.'

"The inexorable interrogatory of Mr. Linklater extorted admissions that in December, 1854, June, 1855, and December, 1855, a large amount was represented as an asset which in truth consisted of bad and doubtful debts; that at none of these periods, nor in 1856, ought one shilling of profit to have been divided; that from June, 1855, down to the closing of the bank profits, were declared, although the whole first paid-up capital was believed to be gone; and, finally, that, at the time the advertisement was issued for new shares, the bank was believed to be in a state of insolvency."

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

COLLISION IN THE ATLANTIC, AND LOSS OF FOUR LIVES.—On the morning of the 7th, between two and three o'clock, the weather being hazy, the screw steamship *Teutonia*, from Brazil to Hamburg, which arrived at Southampton on Monday, came into collision with the schooner *Smuggler*, Captain Young, bound from Cardiff to Corunna with coal. The schooner was struck on the port bow, and almost immediately went down with all hands. The *Teutonia's* boats were lowered, and, after a diligent search, the

captain of the *Smuggler* was picked up in an exhausted state, having been in the water nearly an hour. He came to England in the *Teutonia*, and has landed at Southampton. The remainder of the crew were not seen.

FLOATING OF THE TYNE.—The Tyne, royal mail steamer, which stranded on the coast of Dorset on the 13th of last January, was floated off on Wednesday.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

A HORSE TRANSACTION.

An interpleader issue was tried at the Oxford Assizes last Saturday, to determine the right of property in a certain horse. The plaintiff was a Mr. Cogan; the defendant a Mr. La Mert. From the opening statement of the counsel for the prosecution, it appeared that the plaintiff was well known on the turf, and that the defendant carried on a peculiar line of medical business under the name of Curtis and Co., and speculated a little on the turf, and a little as a bill-discounter. The object of the action was to try whether a horse, named *Gemma di Vergy*, formerly the property of the late William Palmer, of Rugeley, and which was seized by the High Sheriff of Berkshire at the instance of the defendant, was at that time the property of the plaintiff or of the Honourable Francis Lawley, who had left England. The horse in question was sold at Tattersall's, in January, 1856, for 100*l.* to Mr. Henry Hargraves, a gentleman well known on the turf. The horse continued to be his property until the 27th of March, 1856, when Mr. Hargraves sold it to Mr. Francis Lawley for 500*l.*, with his engagements, and an understanding that the former was to receive a portion of the winnings in the event of the horse gaining certain races for which he was entered. The plaintiff, who came from Ireland, and took the benefit of the Insolvent Act early in 1855 (when stating this fact in his evidence, he shed tears), had the good fortune to win on the *Cesarewitch* in October, 1855, the sum of 2000*l.*, and about 1800*l.* on the Derby of last year; in consequence of which he opened an account at the highly respectable bank of Messrs. Herries, Farquhar, and Co., of London, paying in and drawing out in the customary way. Cogan became acquainted with Mr. Francis Lawley, and during that acquaintance lent him considerable sums of money. Mr. Lawley being in want of money, the plaintiff lent him, on the 9th of June, 1856, the sum of 450*l.*, and on the 18th of the same month purchased of him the horse *Gemma di Vergy* for 650*l.*, giving Mr. Lawley another cheque for 200*l.* The cheques passed from Mr. Lawley to the bank, and the money was received by Mr. Lawley. The horse, however, had not run in the plaintiff's name, but in the name of Walker, one reason for which was because the plaintiff was a defaulter, and, therefore, was not allowed to enter the ring; in addition to which it is a common practice to run horses in other names than those of the owners. Mr. Lawley, who had become so involved in pecuniary difficulties as to find it necessary to leave England, had previously become connected with La Mert through some bill transactions, and, after Mr. Lawley had left the country, the former brought an action against him to recover the amount due to him, but no defence was made, and judgment was allowed to go by default. An execution was issued, and Mr. Lawley's horses were seized, and in February the horse in question was also seized, upon which the plaintiff put in his claim for the horse, and the simple question which the jury had to decide was, whether the horse at that time was the property of the plaintiff or of Mr. Lawley.

In the course of his cross-examination, some curious facts illustrative of Cogan's career came out. He said that he had begun life by being apprenticed to a merchant at Dublin, but he did not follow that or any other business than the turf, which he joined in 1835. In 1840, he won 10,000*l.* of a young man named Stratford, at the Wellington Arms, Strathfieldsaye, at a game called "Blind hockey." He received bills for the amount, and endorsed them to a person named Hill, and got by the transaction from 4000*l.* to 5000*l.* in cash. Hill sued Stratford on the bills, but failed in the action, and lost all the money. Cogan had paid away the money which he had received to another person, and was thus prevented from refunding. However, he said he had received such a "moral lesson" from the transaction that "he had become virtuous ever since." His debts, when he became insolvent in 1851, were 8811*l.*, but his assets were nil. He said he failed to pass the court, in consequence of a technical objection, and his petition was dismissed. He did not pass the court till 1855.

The jury found their verdict for the plaintiff, Cogan.

THE ASSIZES.

Thomas Bromley, a watchmaker, has been tried at Leicester for feloniously shooting at Edward Parkes, a police sergeant, and resisting that officer in apprehending him. A robbery had been committed at Croft on the 18th December. On the following day, the officer met Bromley and another man on the high road, and found some of the stolen property in a basket which the former was carrying. Parkes proceeded to arrest him, when a struggle ensued; a pistol was fired by Bromley, but

without effect, and Parkes was severely kicked by him. Bromley was ultimately secured. He was found guilty on the count charging him with resisting his arrest; and, being shown to be an old offender, was sentenced to fifteen years' transportation.

Edward Laley, a young Irish collier, has been found guilty at the same Assizes, of causing the death of William Fulllove, an old man, who, while intoxicated, was thrown violently on to the pavement of a street in Whitwick by the accused, and received a mortal injury on the back of the head. Laley (who was indicted for wilful murder, but only convicted of manslaughter) was sentenced to a year's imprisonment, with hard labour. The sentence has the appearance of being unduly lenient, as it does not seem that there was any provocation whatever for the outrage which resulted in the old man's death.

William Clarke was indicted at Oxford for the murder of his wife. The wife had been drinking all day (the 26th of last December), and left the town of Wallingford about half-past nine in the evening in company with her husband, who, it would seem, had not been drinking with her. About two o'clock the next morning, Clarke knocked up some people about a mile from Wallingford Bridge, and took his wife into the house. She was then dead and cold, and her body was covered with bruises; but it appeared probable, from the surgical and other evidence, that these injuries resulted from the woman tumbling about, owing to her drunken state. The Judge, therefore, interrupted the trial, and directed an Acquittal, which was accordingly given by the jury.

William Morris was tried at Aylesbury for committing a very serious assault on Thomas Linnell. They were both employed as smiths at Woolverton, and, in the course of last July, they were flinging coke at each other, as a practical joke, and Morris was accidentally hit on the eyes and nose, and put to very great pain. Some ten minutes elapsed while the dust was being removed by his friends from the injured parts; and Morris then heated a pointed iron, and, chasing Linnell, struck the weapon into his hand. Immediately afterwards, he declared that he was deeply sorry for what he had done. The hand was so much injured that it was found necessary to amputate it. Morris was found guilty of unlawful wounding, and was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.

An old woman, named Maria Isabella Becket, was tried at the same town for the murder of Jane Bowden, an infant, and her granddaughter. Previous to cutting the throat of the baby, the old woman had gone to the house of her son, and had made an attempt to murder his wife, saying that she was mad, and had been sent by the devil for that purpose. Being frustrated by a neighbour, she was subdued, and, having said in a little while that she was better, she went away to her daughter's house, and there cut her grandchild's throat with a knife, holding the infant on her lap while she did it. She said that her object was in order to secure the child's going to heaven. She was Acquitted on the ground of insanity.

The grand jury threw out the bill in the case of the alleged murder at Chesham.

A singular case was tried at Maidstone. John Moyles, a deaf and dumb man, was indicted for stabbing a man named Michael Strachan. Moyles got into a struggle with some men at Sheerness one night, when, thinking that Strachan was concerned in the assault on him (though he was not), he stabbed him with a knife. It was urged in his defence that, being unable to speak, he was deprived of all means of summoning assistance; that he was forced into a violent method of defending himself; and that, in his excitement, he made a mistake as to Strachan. He was Acquitted.

George Crier was indicted at Salisbury for stealing the half of a 5*l.* note. A Mr. Cox, of Swindon, had sent the first half through the post to a house in Bristol. The second half never reached its destination; but Crier, by some means altogether unknown, became possessed of it, and, sending it to the bank, under an assumed name, requested payment, as he had lost the remainder. The police were set to watch him, and he was arrested. He was now found guilty, and sentenced to eight months' imprisonment; but a point as to the jurisdiction was reserved.

Philip White, the bill against whom for murdering Mary White, his wife, was on Tuesday thrown out by the grand jury, was arraigned on Wednesday at Aylesbury on a charge of administering a noxious drug called *Niera picra* to Ann Seaward, on the 3rd and 7th of December last, with intent to procure a miscarriage. The woman had been seduced by him; and it appears that it is not uncommon for women in that part of England to take the drug in question in order to avoid having children. White, who is a shoemaker, administered some of it to Ann Seaward, but without any effect, except making her sick at the stomach. The man had married a woman who had three illegitimate children; but he speedily got tired of her, and she died, apparently from arsenic administered by him, though he asserts that it was taken by herself to procure a miscarriage. The jury found White guilty of the offence with reference to Ann Seaward; and, in consequence of the decision of the grand jury with respect to the alleged murder, the prosecution withdrew the charge on the

coroner's inquisition. He was sentenced to transportation for life.

THE FEMALE IMPOSTOR, ELIZA TREMAINE.—This woman, who has passed under several aliases, and victimised many persons, was tried last Saturday at the Leeds Quarter Sessions on a charge of theft, the particulars of which we gave in the *Leader* of January 24. A verdict of Guilty was returned, and she was sentenced to penal servitude for six years. Under the name of Alice Gray, she made for herself considerable notoriety in the autumn of the year 1855 by her impositions and her astonishing boldness of manner.

MANSLAUGHTER BY A PHOTOGRAPHER.—The inquest on Mrs. Bunn, who was killed by an American photographer by a blow on the head, has resulted in a verdict of Manslaughter against Clark, the man in question. It would seem that the woman was somewhat intoxicated, as well as the man, and that there was a good deal of mutual abuse previously to the blow.

A FICTITIOUS CUSTOM-HOUSE ENTRY.—A person named Richard Ware was summoned on Tuesday at the Mansion-house by the Custom-house solicitor, on a charge of clearing some goods from a vessel without his being a licensed agent, or otherwise entitled so to act, the fraud being effected by a document called "a prime entry," which turned out to be counterfeit, and in a false name. It seemed probable that Ware (who did not appear) had committed the same offence before; but, considering his youth, the Lord Mayor mitigated the penalty from 100*l.* to 25*l.*, with three months' imprisonment in default. The warrant of commitment was then made out.

TREATMENT OF THE AGED POOR IN WHITECHAPEL WORKHOUSE.—Mr. Edmund Martin, a corn-merchant living at Mount-terrace, Whitechapel-road, applied to Mr. Hammill at the Worship-street police-court, to solicit his aid in behalf of a miserable-looking, shrivelled old man by whom he was accompanied, and who gave the name of William Williams, and stated his age to be about seventy-six. Mr. Martin, who had repeatedly been at the same police-office before, for similar benevolent purposes, stated that the man in whose behalf he then appealed had formerly carried on trade for some time, in the neighbourhood of Whitechapel, by the sale of fish, and such other articles as his means enabled him to purchase. Mr. Martin knew him to have been always a very industrious and honest man. His business having at last failed, he made an application, about three months ago, for admission into the Whitechapel workhouse, a petition to that effect being drawn up and signed by Mr. Martin and several other respectable tradesmen in the neighbourhood. Notwithstanding this, Williams was obliged to attend at the board five times before he could be admitted to the workhouse, and, when he was at length taken in, he was put to very hard work, having to pick oakum for five hours without food. At the end of a month, the poor man was turned out, when he again called at Mr. Martin's house, and informed him of the fact; in consequence of which, Mr. Martin, not being able just then to apply for aid to the magistrate, took Williams into his house, and maintained him at his own expense, until other steps could be taken. The old man stated to Mr. Hammill that, while he was in the workhouse, the authorities offered to give him a shilling and a loaf of bread for three weeks, if he would go out of the house; but he told them that that sum was useless, as he could not possibly do anything with it in the way of setting himself up in business. They therefore turned him out. Ultimately, Mr. Hammill ordered the warrant officer of the district to go to the Whitechapel workhouse with Williams, and request that the latter might be taken in at once; and, after some time had elapsed, the officer returned into court, and told the magistrate that the old man had been again admitted.

ILL-TREATMENT OF A SON.—Joseph Williams, the man charged with neglect of his son, a youth of weak intellect, has been again examined at Worship-street, and committed for trial, bail being tendered and accepted. The evidence given as to the condition of the poor lad when taken to the workhouse (where he still remains) was too shocking for publication. Four witnesses—the medical attendant of the family, a laundress, one of the accused's daughters, and the landlord of the house—were brought forward to rebut this testimony, and to show that the youth was well cared for; but the magistrate did not seem to place any great reliance on their evidence.

EXPERT BOY THIEVES.—Thomas Bedford, a boy of fifteen, and William Brager, thirteen, were charged before Mr. D'Eyncourt, the Worship-street magistrate, with robbery. George Payne, a shoemaker, was passing opposite the shop of Mr. Walker, a chemist at Stepney, when he saw the boys trying to look in at the door. Bedford lifted Brager up to the window, and Brager said, "It's all right—there's no one in the shop;" and, on being dropped by his companion, he walked stealthily in at the door, the other remaining outside. Brager came out again immediately, handed something to Bedford, and both ran off—Bedford pursued by a constable, who took him, and Brager by Payne, to whom he turned round in an impudent manner, and, extending his hand,

which was filled with silver, said, "It's of no use to take me back; come, let's square it." Payne, however, refused the offer, and took him back to the shop, where Mr. Walker found he had been robbed of more than 2*l.* worth of silver, the whole of which was found on the boys. They were very boastful before the magistrate, but pleaded Guilty, and were sentenced, the youngest to three months in the House of Correction, with one private whipping, and the other to six months. Brager's face lengthened considerably at the prospect of the whipping.

THE DOUBLE MURDER AT WALWORTH.—The final examination of Bacon and his wife on the charge of murdering their two children, which was appointed for Wednesday, could not take place on that day, but was postponed for a week, on account of Mrs. Bacon being ill, with symptoms of fever.

THE CONVICT GEORGE HOLMES.—This notorious criminal, who was convicted of an outrageous assault upon a young girl in the West Riding, sentenced to two years' imprisonment, and liberated by order of the Home Secretary on the ground of ill-health after a short period of incarceration, has again been convicted on a charge of felony, at the last Wakefield Sessions for the West Riding, and sentenced to six years' penal servitude.

THE TWO DROMOS.—A boy of fourteen, of the name of Allen Beamish, has been examined at the Mansion House, and committed for trial, on several charges of obtaining money, by means of a forged order, from a fish salesman in Billingsgate Market, and of embezzling various sums of money from his employer, a mining broker in Union-court, Old Broad-street.—At Guildhall, a man named Henry Beamish has been committed for trial on a charge of forging his master's signature to two post-office orders, one for 2*l.* 9*s.*, and the other for 3*l.* 10*s.* which he afterwards uttered. There was no connexion whatever between the cases.

OUR WORKHOUSE SYSTEM.—Three wretched-looking women were charged before the Lord Mayor with ringing the Mansion-house bell on Monday night, at a late hour, and refusing to desist when remonstrated with. The prisoners said that they had in vain endeavoured to obtain relief from the Unions, and they had, therefore, as a last resource, applied to his lordship to send them to prison, that being the only place where they could get food and shelter. They implored the Lord Mayor to grant their request, and save them the misery of applying for relief to the officers of the Unions. His lordship said it was a most shocking case; however, he had no alternative but to send them to prison for seven days under the Vagrant Act. On hearing the sentence, one of the women exclaimed, "God bless your lordship! We truly thank you."

MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.—The March General Sessions commenced on Monday, but the cases did not present any features of remarkable interest.

CUTTING AND WOUNDING.—A lad named Michael Gallivan, of fourteen, was examined at the Southwark police-court on a charge of having, about a month ago, wilfully stabbed a man in the neighbourhood of the Dover-road. The man, who is a matmaker, was walking along Swan-street, Borough, with a bundle of mats slung over his shoulder, when he encountered Gallivan, who called him by opprobrious names. Being exasperated, the man struck him a blow on the face, thinking he should thus get rid of him. Shortly afterwards the boy rushed suddenly on him, and plunged his knife into the man's back between the shoulders. Two of his fellow-labourers, who witnessed the attack, immediately came to his assistance, and pulled the knife out of the wound. Fortunately the knife had been stopped in its progress by a bone, or the wound would probably have proved fatal. The man was conveyed to St. Thomas's Hospital, where he was obliged to remain until last Saturday; and Gallivan was given into custody. The man denied giving the lad the least provocation. Gallivan stated that the knife was in his hand when the man struck him, and, in raising his arm to protect himself, it slipped from his grasp, and accidentally lodged itself in the man's back. He felt considerable remorse at what he had done. The magistrate committed him for trial, but bail was accepted.

GATHERINGS FROM THE LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

An action which came on for trial at Chelmsford before Mr. Baron Channell, but which was postponed till next Assizes, revealed a rather strange story, as far as can be judged from the statements of the counsel for the prosecution. A Miss Martha Augusta Hills is the daughter of an Essex farmer, and is a remarkably handsome young woman, under twenty-one years of age. She was taken away from her father's house by a Mr. Robert Ezekiel Smith, also a farmer, to whom she bore a child. Two actions—one for seduction, the other for breach of promise of marriage—were brought against Mr. Smith by the father of the young lady; but they were settled by the payment of 50*l.*, and an agreement to pay the costs. A Mr. Cutts, an attorney, acted in these matters for Mr. Smith; and a Mr. Shepherd acted for the friends of the young lady. Between these two legal gentlemen, a very extraordinary arrangement (as alleged by the prosecution) was come to. It was to the effect that, if the

young lady would return to the residence of Mr. Smith, and reside there "as heretofore," for a period of eight months, he undertook to marry her at the end of that period. Attached to this was a condition that the agreement was not to be shown to the father of Miss Hills. The fact crept out, however; and Mr. Smith and his attorney, Mr. Cutts, were indicted, under the Act known as "the Bishop of Oxford's Act," for having procured Miss Hills to be debauched. On the case coming on for trial, the counsel for the prosecution applied for a postponement to the next Assizes, on the ground that Miss Hills, being again on the eve of her confinement, could not appear as a witness, and that her evidence was important. It was also alleged that she was most desirous to appear, but that she was forcibly detained by Mr. Smith, the house being taken care of by an elderly woman, who cautiously opened the door to visitors, and would not admit them if they came from the young lady's friends. On the other hand, it was asserted that Miss Hills remained at Mr. Smith's house entirely of her own free will; and Mr. Smith put in an affidavit to that effect, adding that she was no party to this indictment, and in fact disapproved of it. It was also asserted that the indictment was preferred by the attorney, Mr. Shepherd, out of a feeling of malignity because he could not obtain from Mr. Smith the costs (89*l.*) appertaining to the previous actions, which the defendant considered exorbitant, and because the agreement to marry had not been carried out. Mr. Shepherd, it was argued, was equally a party to the undertaking which had led to the proceedings, and might as well as Mr. Cutts and Mr. Smith have been included in the indictment. In reply, it was said that Mr. Shepherd had never suggested the living in concubinage, and that, with regard to the present proceedings, the father of Miss Hills was the prosecutor.—The trial was postponed, in order that Miss Hills might attend as a witness.

Mr. Broughton, the Marylebone magistrate, has announced that he will return to the donors the sums sent for the benefit of Mrs. Allsop, whose alleged misfortunes are now believed to be impositions. All sums not recalled in a fortnight from last Saturday will be paid into the poor-box.

Ellen Griffin and Eliza Field, two middle-aged women, were charged at Guildhall with sending a letter to Mr. Allingham, a surgeon of Moorgate-street, requesting him to transmit a sovereign to either of the accused, or to a third person mentioned in the note, on pain of being taxed with disgraceful offences. By the advice of the police, Mr. Allingham sent a farthing enclosed in a letter, which he registered, and in the corner of which he put a small cross as requested by the accused. A detective officer then watched the delivery of the letter to Griffin, who said to the postman that she expected the note, and that the cross in the corner was a private mark used by her and her friend in their correspondence. She was then given into custody. The woman Field was afterwards apprehended; but the officers stated, on both the prisoners being brought up on Monday, that they were unable to prove any complicity between the two; that they did not think it existed; that the letter could not be shown to be in the handwriting of Griffin; and that Field, who appeared to get her living by fortune-telling, exhibited symptoms of being out of her mind. The former was therefore discharged, and Alderman Carden ordered that the latter should be sent to the Union to be taken proper care of. She protested that she was in her right mind; threatened that, if she were locked up, she would go straight to the Queen on coming out, and complain against the alderman; and said that she would speak what she meant if she were before fifty thousand kings, and that she had been persecuted by one scoundrel or another for the last five years.

An important question was raised on Monday in the Judges' Chambers under the amended County Courts Act of last session. By a provision in the Act, a Judge of the supreme courts can order the proceedings after verdict to be removed from a county court and execution issue as if the action had been brought in the superior courts. In the case of *Box v. Mitchell*, application was made to remove the proceedings from the Westminster County Court. Judgment had been obtained for 40*l.*, and the expense of a judgment summons and commitment, it was stated, would exceed the expense of a *ca. sa.* to take the defendant into execution. Mr. Justice Crowder, after consulting with some of the other Judges, granted the writ to remove the proceedings into the supreme court from the county court.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—The Queen, it is anticipated, will remain at Windsor until after her confinement.—Prince Albert held a levee on behalf of the Queen on Thursday afternoon in St. James's Palace.

FIELD-LANE NIGHT REFUGE.—A public meeting in support of a new effort of the committee of the Field-lane Ragged School in opening a night refuge for homeless young women was held on Wednesday evening in the schoolroom, West-street, Holborn-hill, under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury. Resolutions approving the institution were moved and passed, the speakers being the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, M.P., Dr.

Cumming, Mr. Joseph Payne, Mr. Fordham, Mr. Vandekist, and other gentlemen.

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—This admirable society, parent and type of many flourishing societies in the country, has issued the regulations to be observed at its exhibitions during the present year. Some very important changes have been introduced, which we are inclined to believe will be found beneficial to the society and to the public. In an important section of the Exhibition, headed "Horticultural Manufactures," it is proposed to admit all kinds of manufactured articles connected with horticulture. An autumnal fruit exhibition is also projected, to take place in October. The present council of the society have been anxiously directing their attention to the great object of rendering the society's exhibitions conducive to the promotion of good gardening, as the Royal Agricultural Society's exhibitions are an incentive and an encouragement to good farming. Among the general results of their deliberations we find—1. The establishment of a new class of two guinea members. 2. The abolition of admission fees; all new subscriptions being in future payable in advance. 3. The reduction of the expenses at the Garden until it could be placed under one general superintendent, whose standing in the horticultural world would secure general confidence. Such a person has been found in Mr. George M'Ewen, formerly gardener to the late Duke of Norfolk. With this accession of practical ability, and the aid of funds voluntarily provided by a large number of fellows, the council, we think, are justified in believing that the public attraction and utility of the gardens at Chiswick will be materially increased, and that it will become in every sense a centre of instruction, as well as of experimental horticulture. We cordially wish the Society all success.

CHINA AND THE LATE DIVISION.—Some of the principal London firms connected with the China trade have transmitted an address to Lord Palmerston, thanking him for the firmness he has exhibited in connexion with the Chinese question; expressing their fear that the effect of the late division will be to create still further difficulties and disasters at Canton; and praying him to devise such measures as will be calculated to protect our fellow countrymen and their interests, as well as to lead to the fulfilment of all treaty obligations and to the establishment of our relations with China on a permanent footing of security and peace.—A Court of Common Council was held on Monday, for the purpose of expressing the opinion of the members on the recent vote in the House of Commons on the China question. After considerable discussion, and the proposal of two amendments, which were lost, a motion was carried, approving of the conduct of our Ministers in China, censuring the decision arrived at by the majority in the House of Commons, and thanking Lord Palmerston and the Government generally for the course they pursued on the occasion of the recent debate.—The Premier has declined an invitation of several of the merchants of the City to be put in nomination for the metropolitan constituency.—The Liberals of Bath, having met on Monday in the rooms of their association, passed a vote of confidence in Lord Palmerston.

THE REFORM CLUB.—George W. Harris, Esq., late stipendiary magistrate of Granada, has been chosen secretary of the Reform Club. The candidates were a hundred and twenty-six in number.

HONDURAS INTEROCEANIC RAILWAY.—A meeting of merchants and others was held on Monday in the Manchester Town Hall, in reference to the proposed Honduras Railway, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Mr. E. G. Squier attended at the head of a deputation from the board of directors, and gave some particulars with the view of showing the superiority of the proposed route (from Puerto Caballos, on the Atlantic, to the Bay of Fonseca, on the Pacific) over all other routes, and the healthy, fertile, and rich character of the lands over which the rail would pass. This railroad would shorten the distance from New York to San Francisco by 1300 miles, or ten days' time. A resolution affirming the advantages of the proposed line was unanimously adopted.

MISSIONS TO SEAMEN AFLOAT.—A public meeting for promoting these missions at home and abroad was held yesterday at Willis's Rooms, under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury. The society proposes approaching the sailor on his own element, and from ship to ship, and preaching the Gospel to him, by means of chaplains and lay agents, whose sphere of action would be the wind-bound shipping in roadsteads or vessels lying in harbours and docks. Resolutions in favour of the society were unanimously carried.

THE LUND HILL COLLIERY EXPLOSION.—The adjourned inquest was held on Monday. Seven miners who were working in the pit at the time of the accident gave evidence. They all said they had nothing to complain of, and that they considered the pit to have been well ventilated. One of them said he considered himself as safe in the pit as when he was at home. John Thompson, one of the colliers, however, spoke of neglect by the "trappers," who frequently collected together to talk, instead of being at their stations. The inquiry has not yet terminated. Water (says a writer from the spot) continues to be poured into the pit, and it is expected that a week will elapse before it will have risen to the

height necessary to extinguish the fire. It will require several weeks to get the water out again; so that a month or six weeks will probably elapse before any of the bodies can be recovered, and no hope is entertained that any of them will be recovered in such a state as to be capable of identification. The number of men in the pit has now been ascertained to be 189.

MR. SPEAKER LEFEVRE.—Mr. Speaker Shaw Lefevre was elected to his high office on the 27th of May, 1839, by a majority of 18 votes over the late Right Hon. Henry Goulburn, the numbers having been 317 and 299. The right hon. gentleman was subsequently re-elected to the chair *nem. dis.* in the three successive Parliaments of 1841, 1847, and 1852. His term of office has been nearly 18 years. His predecessor, Mr. Abercromby, was elected in 1835 by a majority of 10 over Mr. C. Manners Sutton, afterwards Viscount Canterbury, and held office about four years.

THE NEW DEAN OF CANTERBURY.—The Rev. Henry Alford has been appointed by the Crown to the Deanery of Canterbury, rendered vacant by the death of the Very Rev. William Rowe Lyall, D.D.

DEATH OF THE IRISH SENIOR MASTER IN CHANCERY.—William Henn, Esq., Master in Chancery, died suddenly at Dublin on Monday morning. As Senior Master, his salary was 2500*l.* a year.

FIRE.—A fire broke out on Monday night in the extensive mansion belonging to Lady Ann Beckett, of Stratford-place, Oxford-street. It was speedily subdued.—The premises of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Bache, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street, steel plate engravers to the Government, and manufacturers of the postage and receipt stamps, were burnt down on Wednesday night. The factory is of immense height and width. Various land engines, as well as the large steam floating engine on the river, poured copious bodies of water on the flames; and, by half-past twelve o'clock (the fire having burst out shortly before nine) the conflagration was got under control. The premises and almost all they contained were destroyed. The loss of property is roughly estimated at 30,000*l.*; but the greater part is covered by insurance.

AUSTRALIA.—The last advices from the great southern continent contain little political news. The intelligence has reference chiefly to the gold produce, which appears to be at about the average. The Melbourne, Geelong, and Ballarat line of electric telegraph was opened on the morning of the 16th of December. The Budget submitted to the Legislative Assembly of Tasmania exhibits an unfavourable condition of finance.

MR. BUTLER COLE ASPINALL.—We see by recent Australian papers that Mr. Butler Cole Aspinall (well known in connexion with the London press, to which he was a valuable contributor), is about to be chosen Chairman of Committees for the Legislative Council of Victoria. The selection of so young a man for a post of such importance is a striking testimony to Mr. Aspinall's success in his new home.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.—A meeting of gentlemen favourable to a reform of Parliament was held in London on Monday, at which resolutions were adopted to the effect that an opportunity should be given for expressing public opinion on the questions to be made tests at the ensuing election; and the holding of a public meeting for that purpose was urged and agreed to.

THE EARL OF FIFE died at Duff House on Monday night, in his eighty-first year. He is succeeded in his title and estates by his nephew, James Duff, Esq., M.P. for the county of Banff.

FIRE IN A CHAPEL.—The congregation of a new Wesleyan chapel, at North Shields, were alarmed last Sunday evening, during service, by observing that the roof of the building had caught fire from the gas. There was, of course, an immediate rush for the doors; but a body of sailors, at that time present, kept back the crowd with characteristic calmness. Two of the doors were speedily thrown wide open; and, as the preacher and other officers behaved with great courage and self-possession, all present got out with tolerable deliberation and in perfect safety. The seamen and the other officers of the place then speedily got the flames under.

ARREST OF A PRESBYTERIAN CLERGYMAN.—The Rev. Mr. Gamble, a Presbyterian minister, of Castledawson, Ireland, was taken into custody last Saturday, at his own house, under a warrant signed by a stipendiary magistrate, and conveyed by the constabulary to Derry, in order to be lodged in the county gaol. His imputed offence is that of having incited a riotous mob to use violence towards her Majesty's troops. He asserts that he is entirely innocent; and, indeed, this seems to be probable.

MR. SMITH, M.P. ON OUR COTTON SUPPLY.—A public meeting of gentlemen connected with the cotton trade was held on Tuesday afternoon, in the large room of the Town Hall, Manchester, for the purpose of hearing an address from J. B. Smith, Esq., M.P. for Stockport, "on the importance of full and adequate supplies of cotton being obtained." About two hundred spinners, manufacturers, and others were present; Mr. T. Bazley, president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, occupying the chair. The facts stated by Mr. Smith in his very interesting address were mainly the same as those which have already been brought before the reader's notice in the leading columns of this journal. The hon. member was greeted with loud applause. The meeting

was also addressed by Mr. Alexander N. Shaw, formerly a revenue collector in India, and now a candidate for the Northern Boroughs, and who stated that India could produce the finest cotton, and might, in his opinion, in due time and with proper management, undersell and supply the Americans themselves. Some other gentlemen having spoken, the meeting separated.—On Wednesday, Mr. Smith spoke at the Cotton Sale Rooms, Liverpool, on the same subject.

LAMARTINE.—Standing on the steps of the Hotel-de-Ville, with the waves of an angry multitude surging up fiercely towards him, the orator waved them proudly back, and sending forth his sonorous and practised voice among them, excited their curiosity, riveted their attention, and stilled their passions. In parliamentary warfare, however, mere impassioned speaking is not enough. They who undertake to make laws for a great people look more for breadth of thought, steadiness of views, and stability of personal character, than for an artificial rhetoric and poetical figures of speech. Louis Napoleon soon discovered Lamartine's weak side, and ceased to fear his opposition. By a few plain strong words, implying in the speaker an iron will and indomitable courage, he totally neutralised the effect of Lamartine's rhetoric. When he rose in the National Assembly, he greatly reminded all historical students of the first appearance of Cromwell in the British Parliament; not that there was an exact resemblance, but that both possessed that peculiar quality which, when a man speaks, rivets the attention of his listeners, partly through apprehension, partly through the desire to penetrate the dark problem of his character. From the day on which Louis Napoleon was elected President of the Republic, Lamartine's reputation began to wax pale and dim.—*Louis Napoleon, by J. A. St. John.*

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, March 14th.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE COMING DISSOLUTION.

THE EARL OF DERBY having induced the Earl of Albemarle to postpone a motion of his which stood for next Monday, gave notice that on that evening, on the second reading of the Income-tax Bill, he should make a statement with reference to the appeal about to be made to the country.

PERSIA.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE having moved for certain papers connected with the expense of the war with Persia, the Earl of MALMESBURY pressed the Government for information as to the causes of the war, and the nature of the treaty with Persia which had been recently entered into.—The Earl of CLARENDON explained that the war was caused by the attack of Persia on Herat; and then proceeded to state that, by the treaty just entered into, the Persian troops could be withdrawn from Herat and Afghanistan within three months of the ratification. The Shah had renounced all claim to Herat and Afghanistan. As regarded commercial matters, England was to be placed on the same footing as the most favoured nations. The treaty against the slave trade in the Persian Gulf, which would expire in 1862, was renewed for ten years more.—The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH remarked that the war with Persia was in fact a war with Russia; and he urged the necessity of the most vigorous measures being taken to preserve our Indian Empire from the aggression of Russia.

After a few words from the Earl of ALBEMARLE, the House adjourned at a quarter to seven.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PERSIA.

In answer to Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, Lord PALMERSTON declined to go into the general question of the treaty with Persia, but stated, with reference to the practice under which foreign missions in Persia exercised protection over Persian subjects in British employment, that it was intended to discontinue it; thus removing one of the most fertile causes of disagreement between the two countries.

CHINA.

In answer to Sir HENRY WILLOUGHBY, Mr. LABOUCHERE said that by the last accounts the utmost tranquillity prevailed in all the northern parts of China.

THE SPEAKER.

On the motion of Lord PALMERSTON, a resolution was agreed to in committee of supply, granting an annuity of 4000*l.* a year to the Speaker on his retirement from the chair of the House.

ARMY ESTIMATES.

On bringing up the report on the Army Estimates, Mr. STAFFORD complained that the recommendations of a committee of that House with regard to the army medical department, had not been carried out.—Mr. FREDERICK PERL urged that much had been done to improve that department.—Sir W. F. WILLIAMS stated that nothing could be better than the state of the mili-

tary hospital at Woolwich, which had recently received the approbation of Miss Nightingale.

WAYS AND MEANS.

On the motion of the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, in committee of ways and means, a vote of 1,000,000*l.* out of the Consolidated Fund, to cover the supplies voted this session, was agreed to.

The MUTINY BILL, and the MARINE MUTINY BILL, were severally brought on, and read a first time.

The House adjourned at a quarter to six.

CHINA

(By Electric Telegraph.)

Paris, Friday night.

It is officially stated that no French troops will be sent to China, beyond the vessels which have already sailed.

The *Patrie* states that accounts from the frontiers of China received at St. Petersburg, and published by the *Journal de l'Académie*, announce that the Government of Peking is in a state of dissolution; that the Emperor has no cash, and is forced to issue iron coin; that all moneyed men had left the city, and that the Chinese and Manchous are in open hostility.

PERSIA AND INDIA.

Nerimon Khan and Mirza Ebol Khan, the bearers of the treaty signed at Paris by Ferouk Khan, sailed on Thursday morning for Constantinople.

Letters from Bombay, of the 16th of February, received at Alexandria, mention that Colonel Jacob had sailed for the Persian Gulf with 1000 cavalry and a regiment of infantry. Dost Mohammed has shown himself favourable to the mission of General Lawrence. The former believes he shall be able to make Kandahar his principal residence.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

(By Electric Telegraph.)

Bucharest, March 9.

The Firman convoking the Divans has arrived.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE WAR IN CHINA.

MEETING IN THE CITY (YESTERDAY).

A LARGE and influential meeting of the electors of the City of London, comprising merchants, bankers, tradesmen, and others, was held this afternoon at the Guildhall (the Lord Mayor presiding), "to take into consideration the decision recently come to by the House of Commons, relative to the affairs at Canton, and to express its high confidence in her Majesty's Government."

A resolution to this effect was adopted by a large majority. An amendment with a contrary tendency, moved by Mr. Morley, was rejected. The proceedings passed off quietly.

Lord Palmerston and her Majesty's Ministers have intimated their acceptance of an invitation from the Lord Mayor to partake of a banquet at the Mansion-house, on Friday, the 20th instant. Cards have been issued to members of both Houses of Parliament and other guests.

AMERICA.

According to the latest advices from the United States, members of Congress incalculably by the corruption committee had resigned. The Mexican Treaty had reached Washington. It is asserted that there is no cession of territory, and no preference of individual claims against Mexico. It says nothing of Tehuantepec, or of Sonora, or Lower California. The Mexican Government desires immediate action. According to the *Tribune*, the majority of the Cabinet has signified a strong feeling against entertaining the new Mexican Treaty, and there was no present probability that it would be submitted to the Senate at all. The President has signed the Submarine Telegraph Bill.

THE ELECTIONS.

DUBLIN COUNTY.—It is believed that two Liberals will contest this county—Sir Charles Donville and Mr. O'Reilly Deane. The state of the registry gives good ground for anticipating that Mr. Hamilton and Colonel Taylor will be ejected.

LIVERPOOL, Friday Morning.—The alliance between Mr. Horsfall and Mr. Turner is so decided that the Liberals now think of starting another candidate, in conjunction with Mr. Ewart.—*Globe*.

THE CHINESE AND PERSIAN WARS.—On Monday evening (the 16th) a peculiarly interesting meeting will be held at Freemasons' Hall, to consider the policy of the Chinese and Persian wars. Mr. Cobden, Mr. Milner Gibson, and Mr. Layard are announced among the speakers.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Return of admissions for six days ending Friday, March 13th, 1857, including season ticket holders, 8431.

Open Council.

[IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.]

There is no learned man but will confess he hath much profited by reading controversies, his senses awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If, then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write?—MILTON

CONVICT-CONVERTS.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—I read with much interest in your paper of the 7th inst., a letter on "Convict-Converts," signed "W. H. W." There is a great deal of painful truth in it, and the monstrous incongruities which the writer well describes, do result in part from the exigencies of a system, and the yet deeper exigencies of the human instinct. Still I think the conclusion which the writer draws from this, and the plan of thought and action which he recommends, lose sight of a great truth, and involve the treatment of criminals in public and private in difficulty and almost hopelessness. Now, there is the great eternal fact of forgiveness, full, free, absolute, and is that ever to be ignored? No matter how hardened the sinner, no matter how enormous the sin, beyond and above all this stands the mercy which transcends it. This is the doctrine we apply in our human relationships. We feel that no amount of wrong ought to exclude us from the forgiveness of those whom we have injured, that the only condition required is penitence; and when we have to do with our higher relationships and responsibilities, when human beings "sin steeped" pass into our care, how shall we treat them? What shall we say to them? Surely, we are not to ignore the great fact of Divine forgiveness, without which all is utter hopelessness. When the vision of a past life of wrong, with its consequences here, and its inevitable issues of misery in the future, glares upon the wretched man, and he asks, How shall the sin be separated from its consequences, and by whom?—must we not reply, that the Great Father of Spirits, infinitely pitiful, has free, full, absolute forgiveness even now, that no rebellion, no ingratitude, can weary his boundless love? This is God's message to man, to man under every circumstance, and never ought it to be withheld. Pardon to the end of life (it may be beyond it) is the inevitable result of Infinite perfection, and what is likely to melt the hardened heart and to produce real penitence as such an exhibition of Divine love? This, as the Rev. F. D. Maurice observes in one of his theological essays, was the secret of Whitfield's success: he preached an infinite love, as well as an infinite sin, and the heart of the Kingswood collier responded to his message. I know the difficulties on the other side of the question. I know and deeply feel the awfully ludicrous aspect which the teaching your correspondent deprecates often takes—as witness the case of the wretched man Dove. I know that pardon is not an arbitrary act which wipes away sin, on no moral grounds, and relieves the conscience from guilt without changing the heart; that a man cannot be juggled from a fiend into a Saint; that the reading of the Bible and the repeating of hymns are valueless as mere outward acts. The remarks of "W. H. W." as to the difficulties of our "heavenward" course are true—the subjection of a rebellious will to conscience, God, and right is a hard and life-long struggle; but after the discipline of life has failed, then, even then, the hard nature may be faded with the power of Divine love, and re-formed, regenerated. "When he had nothing to pay, He (God) freely forgave him all." It may be that the Great Future will develop remedial resources. There is that in every human being which, to our eye, seems capable of indefinite improvement, and which is lost in the present from want of favourable conditions. But, leaving the future, what is the spiritual treatment of our criminals to be? A man's guilt morally considered, I suppose, is in proportion to his conscious violation of right. The whole moral condition may be low, but conscience is disturbed only by conscious wrong. Now what is the case with the men whom your correspondent describes? All evil influences have been at work upon them from infancy. Born in an atmosphere of pollution, trained in scenes of unmentionable vice, where were they to find the power to resist temptation? Society cast them forth, and outcasts they became. We receive them into our prisons, and there is presented to us the problem of their moral and spiritual regeneration. Shall we, too, cast them out? Shall we say, You are too bad for us to attempt to amend; we can only leave you to God, and commit you thus to the Great Unknown Future? Surely we may do more than this. We may appeal to the moral consciousness latent in every breast, to the sense of God and right, and responsibility dormant within. It may be that we shall awaken no response, it may be even that we shall make hypocrites, but we shall at least have done what we can.

The subject is one of extreme and painful interest, of immediate bearing on a large class, and indirectly affecting the treatment of sin generally. I shall be glad if you think these remarks worth inserting in your paper. I am anxious to see the subject fully discussed.

Yours respectfully,
C. N.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. M. W.—We have received two letters from Mr. E. M. Whitty, in neither of which does he impugn our criticism of his book recently published; but as the first was accompanied by a threat, in case of our declining to insert the second, Mr. Whitty will at once perceive, we suppose, that it is impossible for us to comply with his request.

B. R. P.—Our correspondent's second communication will appear next week.

It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted, it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them. During the Session of Parliament it is often impossible to find room for correspondence, even the briefest.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1857.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by their law of its creation in eternal progress.—DR. ARZOU.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

"THE Appeal to the Country" is one of Lord PALMERSTON'S jokes, and the most effective of them all; and the Parliament, born of a practical joke, will be an organised hoax—if the country is simple enough to be the victim of the jest. The fun of the thing lies in the attempt to get a new Parliament out of a dispute on the banks of the Canton river, about which there is no practical difference, and which does not affect the English people to the extent of a penny a head; while the English people are to undergo a huge bustle, a disastrous interruption to business, and to forget every object that really does concern themselves, will affect them for the next five or six years, and perhaps permanently injure their constitution. This looks like a very harsh assertion, but we will show that it is practically and literally true.

The merits of the China question have ceased to be in dispute. For our own part, we have expressed our approval of Sir JOHN BOWRING and our agreement with Lord PALMERSTON in the policy to be pursued at Canton. Some differed, and of those again some differed conscientiously on a question which was open to discussion, while others took advantage of an affected moral scruple to attempt an attack on the Government. The Opposition made the question a party stalking-horse; but did all the Liberals do so who voted with Mr. CORBEN? Few can doubt that Mr. CORBEN himself was sincere. At Lord PALMERSTON'S own meeting, Mr. LINDSAY especially questioned the Premier to discover whether or not there was not some point on which he would admit a question of Sir JOHN BOWRING'S conduct—some detail on which he would open the door of reconciliation with his political friends? Lord PALMERSTON would not yield an inch. Who was it, then, that made a difficulty, and prevented a closing of the breach? Lord GOBURNIC averred at the meeting that he did not differ from Lord PALMERSTON save on that point; yet Lord PALMERSTON'S nearest friends, who could not act without his sanction, have represented the Liberal opponents

on that occasion as conspiring in an intrigue. Lord JOHN RUSSELL has avowed that if Lord PALMERSTON had previously announced the appointment of a Plenipotentiary to take the matter out of the hands of Sir JOHN BOWRING, he should have been satisfied. Mr. CORBEN may have differed with Lord PALMERSTON to the end of the chapter, on his peculiar Peace principles, but none of the others are Peace men; and if the Premier had only announced what he has actually done, there would have been no occasion for the Liberal vote against him. Yet the voters are represented as engaging in an unfair move, and he goes to the country as a victim!

It is the country that is to be the victim, and we shall see why.

About a week before, Lord PALMERSTON had made a fatal blunder. Forgetting all that has happened since Mr. LOCKE KING had first made his proposal of a 10l. country franchise, Lord PALMERSTON thought it was an affair of no importance. Because the country had consented to be amused so long with the war after it was over, Lord PALMERSTON thought that it was as willing to forget Reform as it was ready to bear another year of the full Income-tax, if nobody made a fuss about it. Accordingly, believing others to share his own indifference, he made that declaration against all Reform, and found himself in the lobby with the Tories. It was a position of that kind which can only be described by a vulgarism, and who can doubt that the factious Viscount in his own mind said, as he walked into the lobby with Mr. DISRAELI, "W.B.," and Sir BOWYER SMITH, "Here's a pretty go!" Who was entering into a "combination" then? The mistake had to be compensated, and an occasion offered—Mr. GLADSTONE went over to the Tories to be better appreciated; Lord DERRY objected to Sir JOHN BOWRING; Mr. CORBEN was not satisfied on the point; and Lord JOHN RUSSELL agreed with Mr. CORBEN. LEIGH HUNT has made out that through a chain of salutations we may have shaken hands by proxy with SHAKESPEARE or PONTIUS PILATE; and on the same principle it was easy to make out a connexion between Lord JOHN and the Tories. Now what are the facts? Lord JOHN has not pursued a factious course in the House of Commons: since the first opening of the session it was apparent that he had marked out for himself an independent course—judging of questions on their public merits. But to judge a question on its merits is an offence in the eyes of a Premier paramount. Besides, as Lord PALMERSTON had gone with the Tories, the object was to make out that Lord JOHN had done so, whether he had or not; and hence a systematic misrepresentation. Ministers stand convicted of it by the words of one of themselves, Mr. OSBORNE, who alluded to "the Coalition"—that is, DERRY, DISRAELI, and GLADSTONE,—as "Russell and Co." That mystification is to be carried out at the election if the public can only be deafened by a "cry," and induced to forget the facts; which are, that Lord PALMERSTON went with the Tories, when even OSBORNE was ashamed to go with him, on the question of Reform, while Lord JOHN went with Mr. CORBEN on the question of BOWRING, and would not have done so if Lord PALMERSTON had publicly stated what he has actually done. Who is intriguing now?

But we have not done with the evidences of the hoax to be put upon the country. At the election, people are to forget Reform, and to remember only PALMERSTON—to forget the vote in the man. Liberals who have affected to stand by Reform, now leave it to stand by the Opposition leader in the LOCKE KING debate. One Liberal proposes

to retire from Middlesex, if he can make way for a gentleman more acceptable to the electors. Who is mentioned as the new "gentleman?" The Marquis of BLANDFORD, a Tory. And who is the obliging gentleman that is so willing to make way? That same modest Mr. OSBORNE! And where will he find a seat?—for, of course, he must be elected to the PALMERSTON Parliament. Perhaps at Devonport, turning out Sir ERSKINE PERRY; one of the Liberals who voted with Lord JOHN RUSSELL. Who are making a "combination" with the Tories?

The practical question is, whether the country is simple enough to be thus gulled. It was indignant at the coalition between DISRAELI and GLADSTONE to turn out PALMERSTON; but why should it wreak its vengeance on RUSSELL and the Liberals, whose real offence is that they would not forget Reform, and wished Lord PALMERSTON to do in China what he has done? The Coalition is a dead failure, and even Mr. DISRAELI turns up his nose at it. But the other coalition, between PALMERSTON and the Tories, begun even as we have traced it, and continued even to the hustings, is not yet a failure. But we see symptoms that the country will not be quite so green as some hoped.

There is one omission which it is not likely to pardon. The election was announced, and the Government did not deign to put forth a programme. "L'état—c'est moi," said Lord PALMERSTON;—"I'll be your programme." "Thank you for nothing," the country may answer; and it is nothing. Even if a programme were issued at a late date, it could not be till the country was far gone in preparations for its choice. The country, therefore, is left to no course but to choose its own men; and the question is, whether it will or will not forget all that it has hitherto demanded under the generalized name of "Reform."

The improvements which we require under that head, have been, and would have been during the present session, entirely suspended. Let us ask, for a single one, what has been done with the army? If there had been any really great improvement promised, it would have been announced; but some facts have come out. The Duke of CAMBRIDGE was stopped as soon as the aristocratic party in the army knew the real scope of the improvements designed by "the soldier's friend." Lord LUCAN, Lord CARDIGAN, General AIREY, and Colonel GORDON, have been sustained in some of the highest military honours which could be bestowed. How have Sir JOHN McNEILL and Colonel TULLOCH been treated? They exposed the fatal incapacity that had lost an army, and the Crimean Commission was appointed, let us remember, to blunt the effect of Mr. ROXBURGH's Committee. They did their duty well, but have been neglected, and insulted, until at last Lord PALMERSTON is compelled to give way before the sense of decency in the House of Commons. The Land Transport Corps has been discharged like a body of paupers; while the men who caused the mischief have been rewarded and honoured; and Ministers boast that the expenditure has been cut down, leaving the country still without the necessary military defences and barracks; so that the excessive expenditure of which Mr. GLADSTONE complains is, after all, not efficient for its expressed purpose. Ask General WINDHAM whether a popular army might not be established at less expense than our aristocratic standing army; let the Norfolk people send General WINDHAM to the House of Commons, and we shall hear more about it. Our foreign policy is an organised mystification. We have demon-

strations towards Naples, while Italy is left to fall between Austria and France. Switzerland is made to give up her rights on the faith that England and France will make Prussia behave handsomely, and Prussia takes advantage of the bargain that she did not make. We accept in Paris those conditions from Persia which were refused in Constantinople, because, whether about Persia, Turkey, Switzerland, Italy, or anything else, our Prime Minister is content to play second fiddle to his friend on the throne of France. The French Government itself is an immense bubble company—a *société anonyme*—the peculiarity of which is that the managers are not answerable for the obligations of its shareholders, nor for the bankruptcy that will come; and there are English partners in some French companies. In short, we may have a clear and intelligible foreign policy, an economical expenditure without penny wisdom, and a fresh start of political reform, if we do not fall into the snare and forget everything but the clever old gentleman who puts to the country the question: "Am I sharp enough?—are you simple enough?" The real key of all popular power is the one which the country is asked just now to forget—the progressive extension of the franchise.

THE NEWEST PARIS CREDIT SCHEME.

THE most magnificent scheme that the peculiar style of French commerce now reigning in France has yet invented, has been disclosed to the world this week: it is "the International Association of Commercial Credit." There is nothing new in the plan, which is exactly copied from the Paris pattern. The persons who stand ostensibly forward as the founders of this new company or bank are: Mr. WILLIAM GLADSTONE, of the firm of J. THOMSON, T. DONOX, and Co., of London and St. Petersburg, directors of the Orleans Railway, acting in his own name, but as agent of Mr. WEGUELIN, Governor of the Bank of England; Mr. CHARLES BELL, merchant; Mr. ALDERMAN SALOMONS; Mr. CHARLES MORRISON, of the house of MORRISON, DILLON, and Co.; Mr. ARTHUR HANKEY, banker; Mr. S. H. J. GOLDSCHMID, Mr. ROBERT CAMPBELL,—all of London; M. SAMUEL ARTHUR DE HABER, fundowner, and M. HENRI F. L. MARÉE, Assessor of the Tribunal at Berlin, acting as agents of M. DAVID HAUSEMANN, formerly Prussian Minister of Finance, and now manager of the Berlin Discount Company; Mr. ROBERT KAYSER, Vice-President of the Hamburg North German Bank, acting as agent of Senator GUSTAVUS GODEFFROY, of the firm of GODEFFROY and SONS, Hamburg; M. ERNEST MERCK, Consul-General, of the firm of H. G. MERCK and Co., of Hamburg; M. ALBERT DUFOUR FÉRONCE, Managing Director of the German General Bank at Leipzig; M. L. R. BISCHOFFSHEIM, banker, and M. ARMAND DONON, of the banking-house of DONON, AUBRY, GAUTIER, and Co., of Paris. The objects of the bank are: to centralise scattered and unproductive capital; to support and develop all the commercial and industrial transactions of France, by facilitating the accession of foreign capital to French affairs; to assist in the reduction of the rate of interest and in the development of credit, whilst keeping the company exempt from the risks attendant upon speculation in securities, purchases and sales on its own account not being permitted.

The company will be a "*société anonyme*," the constitution of which is peculiar. Such a company is called "anonymous" because it does not bear the name of any of the partners; but is designated by a title signifying the object of the association. Such a society

comes into existence from the moment it receives the approval of the French Government,—for this company will have its residence in Paris. The same Government, however, may withdraw the authority, if the company should break its own regulations or the regulations of the Government. Practically, therefore, it exists *during pleasure*, under one of the most despotic governments in the world. The managers of an anonymous company are only answerable to the extent of any shares that they may hold; they are not liable for the obligations of the company; and the shareholders are only liable to the extent of their shares. It is the most complete example of “limited liability,” with the desperate exception of the unlimited liability to the jurisdiction of the Government.

Let us see how the society will work. Its operations, according to the provisional deed of agreement, will consist in receiving sums and paying them out again, like an ordinary bank; discounting bills of exchange and other mercantile securities; making advances on industrial securities, railway shares and debentures, bills of lading, dock warrants, &c.; making advances on public stocks, keeping a cash deposit account for companies, recovering debts for individuals or companies, maintaining agencies and branch banks abroad. The company, therefore, will be a bank in the ordinary sense of the word; it will also be a universal agency, and it will be agent for the sale, mortgage, pledging, &c., of every kind of security, commercial, marine, railway, &c.; besides being general debt collector for Europe.

The capital of the company is fixed at 120,000,000 francs, in 24,000 shares; that is 4,200,000*l.* in shares of 200*l.* each. The constitution of the company appears, as we have said, to be on the Paris pattern, like that of the *Crédit Mobilier*. The capital of that company is exactly half that of the International Company; but, by the law of this constitution, the *Crédit Mobilier* can receive property to the amount of 24,000,000*l.*, and dispose of property to the same amount; thus virtually dealing in a capital of 48,000,000*l.*, besides the 2,400,000*l.* paid up. It is evident that, from its constitution, the International Company would use its capital in a similar manner, so that its 4,800,000*l.* would represent a working capital of 100,000,000*l.*, only. We do not observe in the statement that the working capital would be limited to 100,000,000*l.*

It is said by the *Indépendance Belge* that the scheme is at a stand, because the French Government considers France not to be sufficiently represented in the directorate, wherefore several other Paris gentlemen are to be brought in. Now it is rather remarkable that there is a French element in all the capitals which are represented. Among the founders of the bank are DONON, in London; MARÉE, in Berlin; GODEFFROY, in Hamburg; DUFOUR FÉRONCE, in Leipzig; and DONON, in Paris; that DONON who stands in such striking connexion with the Russian firm of GLADSTONE and Co. CHARLES V. remarked, from the nationality of several Ambassadors introduced to him, that “the Italian appeared to be the fifth element:” in our day the Italian appears to be superseded by the French element.

We have simply described the bank as it is described in its own deed of provisional agreement, with such comment as is supplied by a mere statement of facts having a relation to the subject. We will make only two remarks upon the enterprise. The bank is founded in that place where we have seen the company of the Docks Napoléon, and the partners of which, Messieurs LEGENDRE, CUSIN, and Co., have lately undergone penal

sentence for extensive frauds. This firm had also a connexion with England by its connexion with Fox, HENDERSON, and Co. In the same capital of Paris there is the *Chemin de Fer du Nord*, certain officers of which, CHARPENTIER and GRELET, lately decamped to the United States with large sums of money obtained by fraudulent dealing in the shares. The wonder is, not that CHARPENTIER and GRELET committed the fraud, but that they contented themselves with such a small sum as 200,000 francs. The fact must have made Mr. REDPATH smile. The report upon the frauds in the Great Northern of London has an instructive passage—that which told us the directors abstained from watching the share-dealings of each other; a delicacy most remarkable. The frauds in the Great Northern of London originated in the facilities afforded by the immense scale of the Company, and the imperfect supervision: increase the scale, multiply the transactions, and there is scope for geniuses of forty-REDPATH power. The new International Bank is a grand field.

Supposing the management of the vast company to be perfectly honest, it will be observed that the managers of it would conduct dealings more enormous than the world has ever seen. They would have a power of buying up which would give them a practical monopoly, perhaps over whole branches of commerce. They would possess a power adverse to the public interest, since it would be a consolidation of the contractor interest. With such immense means they could crush any litigant mad enough to go to law with them; and would yet, as all the very wealthiest do, possess the means of evading the law. They would hold a power of corruption to be measured by millions upon millions. Tyrants over commerce, they might become tyrants over Governments, from the power which they would possess of giving or withholding Government loans, possibly even of facilitating or obstructing the sources of Government revenue, and of undermining Government authority.

LIBERALS AT THE ELECTIONS.

THE formation of a National Liberal Party seems the most rational object that can be kept in view by independent politicians during the approaching electoral struggle. Nor is it improbable that the basis of such a party may be considerably enlarged by the results of the penal dissolution. The expiring Parliament was returned under Derbyite influences. Those influences, at least, will be rooted out of the Government boroughs. London will, in future, be exclusively Liberal. Some of the old family constituencies may be expected to be broken into by independent candidates. At all events, Toryism will be repudiated by the great towns, and even some counties will probably be acted upon by the increase of the urban populations included in them. We propose to run through the list of candidates so far as they have been announced, and to touch on the traditions connected with the various Liberal names.

For the City of London we could not desire a better representation than that which would be secured if Baron ROTHCHILD, Lord JOHN RUSSELL, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. RAIKES CURRIE were returned. Mr. MASTERMAN's position was an anomaly, and it is fortunate for him and for the constituency that he has retired. Sir JAMES DUKE has hazarded the confidence of the electors by his inexplicable conduct at the East Sussex election, where he refused to vote for the Liberal candidate. We are sorry to learn that there is a disposition at Aylesbury to

cashier Mr. LAYARD for his vote against Lord PALMERSTON. He is a man whom the House of Commons cannot afford to lose, and were we to differ from him infinitely more than we do, we should hold that Aylesbury did honour to itself by approving a politician so frank, so independent, and so liberal. The infinitesimal little borough of Ashburton will probably do its best by retaining the services of Mr. MORFAT. Brighton, perhaps, will expel Lord ALFRED HARVEY, and add to the strength of genuine Liberalism in the House of Commons by nominating Mr. CONINGHAM, who, should he not be successful in opposing the lord and the barrister, his rivals, will not desist, we hope, from trying the door of Parliament. A sensible increase of moderation marks his address, with no diminution of Liberal feeling. Little can be said for or against the political claims of Sir WILLIAM WILLIAMS, who is a representative of duty and heroism. As for Mr. C. M. LUSHINGTON, who stands for Canterbury, why should the Liberals cut down their programme in order to accommodate it to the views of that diluted Tory? Sir WILLIAM SOMERVILLE is in advance of him, and, still better, Mr. PURTON COOPER, a local man, we believe, of excellent reputation. Every one will be delighted to hear that Captain L. V. VERNON is no longer to poach on the Whig preserves at Chatham; every one, moreover is pleased to hear that the Government will not oppose Mr. ROMAINE who is for the ballot and for an extended franchise, as there is no instance on record of a member being elected for that borough without official support. As for Coventry, we do not wish to see Sir JOSEPH PAXTON deprived of his seat; but he has learned at what price he lately allied himself with the Tory Opposition. They mean to oppose his return. What does Mr. LINDSAY mean, however, by countenancing the candidature of Sir THOMAS HERBERT at Dartmouth? Mr. NEALE, we trust, will reconsider his determination to withdraw. Sir ERSKINE PERRY is not a very safe Liberal; but it would be premature to decide upon his claims to re-election. Mr. DIVETT, of Exeter, has not been a very effective member of Parliament, although a reformer.

Returning to the metropolis, Finsbury occurs in alphabetical succession. No regret can be excited by the retirement of Alderman CHALLIS, but the opposition to Mr. DUNCOMBE is ungrateful and unworthy. If Finsbury desires to give an example to the constituencies of the United Kingdom, it will stand by its tried and trusted member. Of the political qualifications possessed by Mr. COX we know nothing; what we know of Sergeant PARRY is favourable; but it is too comical to offer a great metropolitan borough such a representative as Major REED. We want in Parliament not only men to lead the forlorn hope of impossible bores, but men whose word is an authority, and whose vote is an example. At Frome, Mr. NICOLL, no doubt, will ultimately obtain the desire of his heart, to which we can have no objection, provided he remembers his responsibilities as an employer. Greenwich, no longer derided by the candidature of Colonel SLEIGH, will accept two representatives provided by the Government. The Liberals propose an attack on the Tory interest in Herefordshire.

Several constituencies are in suspense—Liverpool, Maidstone, Manchester, Norwich, Oldham, the West Riding Borough, and others; but some names are conspicuous as deserving the recognition of the Liberal party. Mr. EWART, Mr. W. J. FOX, Mr. COBBETT, Mr. SERJEANT KINGLAKE, Sir JOHN RAMSDEN, Lord GODERICH, and Sir ARTHUR ELTON cannot

be passed over. To reject Mr. CORDEN, Mr. BRIGHT, or Mr. MILNER GIBSON would be to discredit the very principle of independent representation. Nor can it be said that Mr. WILKINSON and Mr. WILLIAM WILLIAMS have failed in their Parliamentary duties. Mr. WIGGELIN has proved a respectable accession to the party, by the side of Mr. WILCOX, a genuine Liberal. Mr. McCULLAGH is a little hesitating in his professions, but Mr. WATKIN, at Great Yarmouth, speaks out with emphasis and candour. But the contest coming on is not one of names, but of principles; not an appeal on Lord PALMERSTON's Chinese policy, but the trial of an issue between Liberalism and Toryism. We should regret if one suffrage were given exclusively with reference to the recent vote. The policy for Liberals to pursue is that of returning members to represent their general opinions. To expel a man from Parliament because he acted with the coalesced opposition would be almost, though not quite, as insane as to elect his rival for seven years to a seat in the Imperial Legislature simply because he thought the *lorcha Arrow* entitled to protection.

FOREIGN POLICY REFORM.

THERE is no doubt that Lord PALMERSTON is resorting to electioneering arts to obtain expressions of public confidence. Whatever may be his success, it is certain, also, that the country begins to be dissatisfied with the system of secret diplomacy. Some explanations in connexion with that topic may advantageously be solicited on the hustings. From officialism stamped with pedantry only one answer can be expected. Lord PALMERSTON, Lord ABERDEEN, Lord JOHN RUSSELL, the Earl of DERBY, would affirm that, without the practice of confidential negotiation, it would be impossible to keep up relations with foreign states. Other persons, not quite so experienced, might consider this a bugbear. Supposing we had no foreign relations? We should probably continue to have foreign commerce; but it is a practical impossibility to cut off one government in Europe from the body of contemporary governments. There might be an end of secret treaties, undeclared understandings, arrangements concluded within closed doors; but a powerful state would retain its power, and influence the world for good or evil, though wax should no longer be used in its diplomatic bureau. At least, the results of the secret system have been far from satisfactory. War with Russia, subservience to France, treachery to the Italians, double-dealing with the Swiss, embarrassment everywhere, have arisen from our policy of converting every diplomatic deliberation into a political conspiracy. It is true that we have ratified a peace with Russia, that we are engaged in settling the Neufchâtel difficulty, that we are on terms of official amity with France, that we keep abreast of European questions in general; but where are our securities? In the sealed chests of diplomacy, presided over by a board of directors sworn to secrecy. What we wish to insist upon is, that a great industrial nation should have better guarantees against war than the temper or the ability of any single minister. According to the theory of the Constitution, Parliament controls the Foreign Office; but if the Foreign Office entangles the country in a dispute, the dispute may have carried too far in the whispering galleries of diplomacy for Parliament to interfere before the question has burnt itself out. The issue raised, however, affects not only declarations of war, but friendly compacts also; there are some friendly compacts possible that would excite as much regret

as any declaration of war. Against these we are without protection. The nation must recognise the acts and fulfil the pledges of its officials. Every minister for foreign affairs is for the time being, a plenipotentiary; every ambassador, if not a plenipotentiary has an unlimited faculty for mischief; every consul has the privilege of quarrelling with authorities abroad; and, the spark once kindled, a long supplementary process is conducted in secret, the consequences of which are never known until they are irretrievable. Six months of negotiations pass; Ministers come down and say, "Gentlemen, we have determined our differences with America, and we invite you to congratulate us;" or, "We have been unable to settle that matter, and have advised the Crown to declare war. You will, of course, give us a patriotic support, and pay the bill." It is thenceforward held to be un-English to question the policy of the conflict; at the dawn of a pacific hope it is declared impolitic to discuss a question still pending; upon the conclusion of a treaty, all discussion is deprecated as too late, since the nation, through its Executive, has entered into binding engagements and must keep faith with a reconciled enemy.

Excepting, therefore, that lightly rising vapour called the moral influence of public opinion upon the policy of Government, the nation has no check upon the diplomacy of the Executive. Supposing that a majority of the House of Commons had condemned the attitude assumed by Lord CLARENDON towards Naples, any member moving the House to a condemnatory resolution, before the act, would have met with the objection that he interfered with the prerogative of the Crown and the functions of the Government; afterwards he would have been appealed to not to interrupt a course of delicate negotiations which were being carried on with every prospect of success—or failure. Then, we have escaped an American war; but how? Admit that we have escaped it through the wise and conciliatory policy adopted by Lord PALMERSTON. Had Lord PALMERSTON's policy been less conciliatory and wise, what then? We might have been dragged into a war; for, right or wrong, the Minister is the arbiter of our foreign relations. It is true that a vote of censure, or want of confidence, may deprive him of power; but he has lit the fires of international dissension, he has broken the bonds of peace; and, supposing even the most favourable issue, the same result is arrived at, after convulsion and disaster, that might have been attained by a simple appeal, in the first instance, to the Imperial Legislature.

We will not go so far as to say that before the Government is permitted to promulgate a hostile declaration against a foreign state, "a Bill for Making War against Russia," or America, or Persia, should have passed three readings in the Lords and Commons; but we contend, and the spirit of the times is with us, that the course of negotiation should be open, and that Parliament should guide the movements of diplomacy, exactly as it marks the plans of legislation. It is true, as we have frequently said, that if Parliament fulfilled its proper aim, diplomacy could do no wrong; that if legislation were under real national control, the Foreign Office would submit to a reformed influence; and it is among the most palpable truths of our age that, if the House of Commons were no longer a club, the band of foreign ministers and ambassadors in Europe would no longer constitute a guild.

It would be worth a national effort to place our foreign relations upon a secure and intelligible footing. The next few years are

wanted for the settlement of home questions; but while Continental disputes are simmering in one direction, American differences fermenting in another, there is no chance for the principle of Reform. This belief has made great progress in the public mind. It is felt that secret diplomacy is an abyss of lurking dangers, and that while we are distracted by affairs beyond the seas, in which we can only have a partial interest, the growth of our institutions is arrested, and our enthusiasm frittered away. Meanwhile, our international sympathies bear no fruit, so that while we neglect our own necessities we afford neither assistance nor consolation to the peoples of the Continent.

RETIREMENT OF THE SPEAKER.

THE scene in the House of Commons on Tuesday night was one of the most impressive ever witnessed within the walls of that assembly. Mr. SHAW LEFEVRE had announced his intention of retiring from the Speakership; Lord PALMERSTON, as the leader of the House of Commons, stood up and made a plain statement of facts, the effect of which was, to declare, that in the most important permanent post of the House of Commons, requiring the highest qualities—knowledge to conduct business, firmness to control disorder, conciliation to win support, patience to assist members who go wrong through inexperience, incapacity, or other foible, memory to recal the laws applicable to each unrehearsed situation, tact to keep up old privileges in the midst of constant and rapid reform—Mr. SHAW LEFEVRE had passed eighteen years of his life, and had gained the esteem of every party and every person in the House. This is a simple truth; and it is, we hold, a great and valuable public event that those high qualities, which constitute the very spirit and substance of chivalry, should be thus bodily presented and receive their homage, at a day when political intrigue, joint-stock gambling, the superciliousness of aristocracy, and the pride and meanness of the purse, appear to have obliterated all signs of chivalry. Yet chivalry is the great safeguard of every nation: it is the religion of man in action.

Mr. LEFEVRE, indeed, has not displayed one quality which might, perhaps, have been called forth by rougher times. He has not shown a legitimate ambition to recover, as well as to preserve, the powers of the House of Commons. For it is the House of Commons after all which really should rule the State, and which should, upon occasion, bring a mutinous or a shifty Minister with a cord round his neck and make him cry *peccavi*. On the contrary, Mr. LEFEVRE has, to a certain extent, suffered the sacred unity of his post to be invaded, by sanctioning the appointment of a Deputy Speaker. He did not do so until his strength in some degree had begun to fail; and then he forgot that one advantage in keeping the Speaker without a Deputy was, that it excluded from the post any but that strong type of man who ought to be the Speaker of a strong popular assemblage.

Who will be the next Speaker?—that is the question suggested by the retirement of the present. There are several candidates for the post. Amongst those who have been named are, Mr. WALPOLE, Mr. FITZROY, Mr. STUART WORTLEY, and Sir FREDERICK THESIGER; all of them good men, but not one of them proved to possess the spirit, or the strength to embody and assert popular power, as contrasted with aristocratic or royal power, which is demanded in a Speaker. On the contrary, the election of the Speaker on the reassembling of Parliament will probably be made a question to try the strength of Ministers; and thus, perhaps, again the

House of Commons will be asked, in appointing its own President, to forget everything but the man who will remain for a brief day longer at the head of the Treasury Bench. So that unless a sturdy House be returned, we may expect it to be insulted with the request that it shall appoint as its own master the tool of the Cabinet.

CAMBRIDGE POLITICS.

THE University of Cambridge, as we learn from the gazetteers, is situated in the town of that name on the river Cam. The town itself has returned two members to Parliament since the dim year 1295. CROMWELL, CHRISTOPHER WREN, SOAME JENYNS, have represented it at various times; SPRING RICE, SUGDEN, MANNERS SUTTON, FITZROY KELLY, and SHAFTO ADAIR have also been among its lights of other days. In 1853, its burgesses were so basely bribed that the election was declared null and void. As to the University, it is not imputed to the doctors and masters of arts that with itching palms they sell and mart their offices for gold; their archives are studded with historic names of men who have represented them in the Commons House: FRANCIS BACON, RICHARD CROMWELL, the rusty weathercock GEORGE MONK, starchy NEWTON, CHARLES YORKE, WILLIAM PITT, LANSDOWNE, MANSFIELD, PALMERSTON, LYNCHURST, and TINDAL. In 1847, they rejected Mr. SHAW LEEFVRE. And now they wish to add the name of Mr. ARTHUR HELPS to their representative roll; but Mr. HELPS begs to decline. He thinks many excellent Cambridge University voters are bigots, and very gently he tells them so. They have a morbid tension of ideas on the subject of the Maynooth Grant; they consider the Sabbath their peculiar pleasure-ground, and can abide no Crystal Palace or Art Gallery rivalries, sweetening and softening the day, after religious severities have made it holy. But his main objection is that "the interests, the welfare, the amusements, and the education of what we call the lower classes, are steadily neglected," and that unless he would promise to continue steady in that neglect he could not hope to be acceptable to the University of Cambridge. He dislikes fixity of opinion not formed from thought; he cannot stultify himself, and he will not represent the doctors and masters of arts. Better not go into Parliament at all, we say, but adhere to historical studies than personify all the prejudice bred under the cap, or all the cant concealed by the gown. But such a representative as Mr. HELPS is not to be spared from Parliament.

THE RUINED SEASON.

THE groans of a great interest have been heard against the Coalition; the pastrycooks have withdrawn their confidence from Mr. GLADSTONE; the milliners no longer sympathize with Mr. DISRAELI. JOHN THOMAS responds to the lamentations of HER MAJESTY'S Purveyor; mercers who dwell in palaces of plate-glass and gold cannot understand the policy of a Parliamentary dissolution; they who deal in shawls are not satisfied of the necessity of an appeal to the country. In other words, the General Election is said to have spoilt the prospects of the London season. It cannot be questioned but that an injurious check has been given to the light trade of the metropolis; the series of fashionable festivities has been interrupted; society is for the time disorganized; the free and independent will open their hands to meet the golden efflux that would have fallen with joy-inspiring chink into West-end tills. Our free-hearted EUPHROSYNE, who had caught the flush, that in summer belongs to the rose,

during a long Christmas relaxation from operas and late hours, will not follow the spring into Bond-street, and barter the gold of Ballarat for the silks of Samarand or the tissues of Paisley. EUPHROSYNE must not be missed from the county when the younger brother of a peer is hesitating how to inform the freeholders that this is the proudest day of his life, or when the fox-like FRAIL is lowering the price of public confidence, or when W. BERESFORD, the beadle of his party, articulates uneasy impertinence to the non-electors. Lives there a heart so sordid that the proposition of FRAIL does not satisfy, or is it in the British constituent nature to be deaf to the gross benedictions of BERESFORD? that heart and that nature EUPHROSYNE quells by a look from the landau, or a kiss bestowed upon some destined driver of pigs not yet known at the village school. A poet of our days has said, "Give me another kiss, and I will scatter kingdoms like halfpence!" Give kisses to those dirty boys and those half-distinguishable girls, and their owners will tumble the franchise upon the Tory floor; and the political influence of EUPHROSYNE will be duly appreciated! But good Great Britons, observe how the lady laughs at her own condescension. Her brother is a knight of the shire; her father has a right to wear golden strawberry leaves on his head; she calls you "common people," and her pure purple mantle is not soiled during her electoral travels.

Meanwhile, little pastry is ordered in London; marriages are postponed; invitations are revoked; *Le Follet* is neglected; dancing teas stand indefinitely adjourned; and soon no one will be left in London except the Commissioners of Bankruptcy and Insolvency, the metropolitan candidates, the police and servants on board wages, and the general London public not belonging to that class, bred, according to one of its own members, "by no means to be very wise or witty, but to sit up while others are in bed, and look down on the universe in pity."

THE LITERARY FUND MEETING.

It is impossible to resist the statement made on behalf of the reform party of the Literary Fund Association in the *Athenaeum* last week. Here is an association established with one object only—the relief of distressed literary men—and every act of relief costs on an average 10*l.* That is to say, fifty-three applicants, in 1855, were relieved at a cost of 547*l.*, the grants ranging from 25*l.* to 50*l.*—larger amounts being seldom or never voted by the Council. Now, we conceive that the case presented by Mr. DILKE on Wednesday afternoon was unanswerable, except upon the assumption that a literary man in distress cannot be assisted upon the same conditions as an artist in distress. For, as was clearly shown by Mr. DILKE, the Artists' General Benevolent Fund relieved sixty-eight applicants in 1855, at a cost of 85*l.* The conservative members of the association insist that there is a difference; but what is it? Is not inquiry as essential in one case as in another? Are not expenses incurred by both associations for salaries, rooms for meeting of committee and subscribers, poundage, advertisements, postage, printing, and stationery? But why in the case of an authors' fund should these expenses amount to more than 500*l.* sterling, while in the case of an artists' fund relieving a larger number of applicants they amount to less than 100*l.*? These were the questions put to the meeting by Mr. DICKENS and Mr. FORSTER as well as by Mr. DILKE; the majority however, were not there to argue, but to vote. The amendment was opposed by sixty-nine, and supported by eleven. Why only eleven? We shall be

much disappointed if, next year, the reformers do not find their phalanx considerably enlarged; it is the duty of literary men to join and assist those who represent their independence, and who have ably and steadily asserted it. The points in dispute are, whether it is necessary to have an expensive house for the convenience of nineteen gentlemen, composing the committee, who meet nine times a year? whether a secretary is required, with a salary of 200*l.* a year, to co-operate with nineteen gentlemen in meeting the necessities of an average of a hundred and fifty applicants? whether the Literary Fund has not been perverted from its original object? whether its range of usefulness should not be considerably enlarged? and upon these questions we trust to the judgment of the reformers, who are literary men, or closely connected with them, rather than to that of the miscellaneous notabilities who compose the council. Be it observed, we do not disparage the services of the members of the council; they act up to their own views; they are gentlemen of high honour and of generous tendencies; but, under the system of management which they uphold, the fund is practically sacrificed. An expenditure of 500*l.* a year incurred in the administration of 1500*l.* a year is an unparalleled and intolerable extravagance. We do hope that the general body of literary men will join the association that they may act with the reformers, and enable them to develop the real objects of the Literary Fund.

THE CRIMEAN COMMISSIONERS.

THE House of Commons, for once, has done its duty. The Government was pursuing an improper course, and the House of Commons coerced the Government. That, perhaps, is a gain we owe to the proximate general election. The Crown—Lord PALMERSTON, that is to say—has been prayed to award some conspicuous honour to Sir JOHN McNEILL and Colonel TULLOCH. There will be nothing to restrain those gentlemen from accepting it. It is the gift, not of a Minister, but of a Parliament.

DIRECT TELEGRAPH TO INDIA.

THERE is now a near prospect of a direct telegraphic communication being established with our Indian possessions. The East Indian Submarine Telegraph Company having obtained the necessary concessions, has laid down the route by the Red Sea, the great line of commercial communication.

From Alexandria across Egypt, as the printed statement shows, the Turkish and Egyptian Governments have arranged that the wires may be suspended on the posts of the Egyptian telegraph already erected between Alexandria and Suez, or along the railway. From thence to Kossier (a military station) it may be laid in the Red Sea, and thence, in short lengths, from station to station. The Ottoman and Egyptian Governments undertake to protect it throughout. The stations below this on the Red Sea are Jiddah and Camaran Island, both belonging to the Sublime Porte. At the former a Turkish garrison is always quartered; the latter is an island with few inhabitants. Next comes Aden, a British possession; the Kooria-Mooria Islands are a British possession; Ras-el-Had is in the territory of our close ally the Imam of Muscat, from whence the line will be connected with the Indian system at Kurrachee. To Aden alone telegraphic communication would be most important.

The advantages of such a line, in comparison with one traversing a wilderness distracted by perpetual war, such as the Euphrates Valley, are obvious. All the soundings having been taken, nothing remains but to manufacture the cable and to sink it. As an example of the rapidity with which this may be effected, we may note that the Atlantic cable, only commenced last November, is to be laid next July.

Literature.

critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review.*

It is interesting to note how influences act and react on each other. Because scientific investigations have been until recently confined to special circles, and excluded from the general public, it has become impossible to speak now to the general public of topics which would be intensely interesting, but are excluded on account of the prudery of language gradually increasing; and thus, because we cannot mention certain organs and functions to ears polite, the possessors of those sensitive ears are kept in perpetual ignorance of phenomena which would greatly interest them. Mr. VAN VOORST has just issued a book of unusual interest, not only interesting to men of science, but to every lady who has ever kept a bee-hive or reared silk-worms; yet such is the rigour of convention that we dare not, in these by-no-means-timid columns, give any account of its wondrous revelations, because, the subject being reproduction, it can only be spoken of by the introduction of words, innocent enough, but "unfit for newspapers." The work is entitled, *On true Parthenogenesis in Moths and Bees*, and is well translated from the German of VOX SIDOLD by Mr. W. S. DALLAN, with notes by Professor OWEN. A richer contribution to entomology and the history of reproduction in animals has not appeared for a long while.

Philosophy is not restricted in this way. It has very hard technical terms to repel the lay, but no improper terms to alarm the prude. It is even susceptible of every grace of style, as may be seen in a volume recently issued on "Les Philosophes Français du XIX^e Siècle," by M. H. TAINÉ, one of the remarkable young writers of the *Revue des Deux Mondes*. A pleasant series of feuilleton sketches of LAROMIGUIÈRE, MAINE DE BIRAN, ROYER-COLLARD, COUSIN, and JOUIN, we cannot recal. But although M. TAINÉ has powers higher than the feuilleton, the defect of his volume is a certain constrained liveliness and feuilleton flippancy unworthy of the subject, and surprising in one who is so vivacious and incisive as to run no chance of becoming dull.

It is known to most readers that one American and one English writer have recently denied SHAKESPEARE's claim to the authorship of SHAKESPEARE's plays—

Garth did not write his own *Dispensary*—

and BACON, say these discoverers, wrote *Hamlet*, *Othello*, and *Macbeth*. The evidence for this wild supposition has already been sufficiently discussed, and we have no intention of reopening it. But the notes to the new edition of BACON furnish a case which a dexterous advocate might press into his service. In the *De Augmentis*, BACON quotes ARISTOTLE as saying: *Juvenes non esse idoneos Moralis Philosophiæ auditores*. Upon which Mr. ELLIS adds this note: "ARISTOTLE, however, speaks not of moral, but of political philosophy." It is interesting to observe that the error of the text, which occurs also in the *Advancement of Learning*, has been followed by SHAKESPEARE in *Troilus and Cressida*:—

Not much

Unlike young men, whom Aristotle thought
Unfit to hear moral philosophy.

The mention of ARISTOTLE reminds us that once more has modern science vindicated the truth of his statements, which for many years have been repudiated. It has long been regarded as an indisputable generalization that the sexes are separate in all vertebrate animals. Only in cases of monstrosity could hermaphroditism be predicated of a vertebrate animal. This was the generalization universally accepted, when lo! Dr. DUROSE proved, by three hundred and sixty-eight dissections, that in one genus—the *Serranus*, or Perch—hermaphroditism is the normal condition. In the last number of the *Annales des Sciences Naturelles*, the reader will find all the details; we content ourselves with announcing the astounding fact, and with adding thereto the fact that ARISTOTLE suspected it: his words are, "πάντες γὰρ εὐπλοκῶνται κνῆματα ἔχοντες,"—for they are always found pregnant;—and on this account he makes them an exception to the fishes of separate sexes. It is true that some fishes are viviparous, and not hermaphrodite; but ARISTOTLE did not know it, and his words point distinctly to hermaphroditism.

HELPS'S SPANISH CONQUEST.

The Spanish Conquest in America, and its Relation to the History of Slavery and to the Government of Colonies. By Arthur Helps. Vol. III. J. W. Parker and Son.

THE third volume of Mr. Helps's history is of deeper and more general interest than its two predecessors, and the historian himself seems to have acquired a greater ease in the mastery of his scattered details. The style, without losing its impressive and seductive influence, without withholding its thoughtful sagacity and picturesque concreteness, has gained in historical dignity and continuity. Three heroic figures move through this volume, very dissimilar, all admirably presented: Cortes, Las Casas, and Pizarro. We are made to know these men, to see into their motives, to sympathize with their efforts, and condemn their errors. They are no lay figures of history, but dramatic personages vividly distinct. Our sympathy also is excited for the poor Indians, who are shown to have been very far from "barbarians" in the vulgar sense of the word, although their culture was strangely unlike our European civilization. Many are the lessons in colonial government which rise spontaneously out of these narratives of the Spanish attempts at colonization; many are the grave political lessons Mr. Helps inculcates by the manner of presenting his narrative, no less than by the reflections which naturally accompany it. And to those who would object

to the amount of reflection contained in these pages, it is sufficient answer to say that in transactions so distant from interest, because so aloof from the obvious course of European history, the English reader could take little sympathy were they not thus philosophically connected with his present troubles and present strivings. In the events and personages of Greek and Roman history we are directly interested. Mere presentation suffices. The figure of Pericles, the passage of the Alps, the dismemberment of the empire, the deeds of Nero, or of Plutarch's heroes, are in themselves of commanding and universal interest. But who cares for Atahualpa? Who is interested in Guatemala? Who understands anything about the *Encomiendas*? To make these historically interesting the historian must connect them with our universal nature by his dramatic presentation, and with our immediate political difficulties by his philosophical reflections. This is done by Mr. Helps, and admirably done. Great therefore, as the labour of special erudition displayed by this work undoubtedly is, and precious as such special erudition must ever make it to those who are directly interesting themselves in Spanish America, the real value of the work lies, we must think, in its felicitous combination of dramatic and philosophic faculty.

The second volume ended with the fall of Mexico. The third opens with the administration of Cortes. To it succeeds the discovery of Nicaragua by Davila. To that succeeds a very luminous account of the *Encomiendas*, which will be new to almost every reader; equally new, and still more interesting, is the book devoted to Guatemala, and the efforts of Las Casas. The Anglo-Saxon and the Spaniard have been the two great colonizers of modern times, and as Anglo-Saxons, it behoves us to study closely the procedure of the Spaniards. The conquest of Peru is a romance; and in the hands of Mr. Helps this story loses nothing of its romantic movement.

Having thus summarily indicated the scope and quality of this volume, we may now draw on it for an extract or two which can be detached without injury from the narrative. Here is one vindicating the Mexicans from the charge of barbarian ignorance:—

Cortes could well afford to be satisfied with the deaths of the two principal kings, and to spare the other conspirators, as his discovery of this conspiracy deepened the impression which the Mexicans already entertained of his supernatural knowledge. They had seen him at the time of greatest difficulty call for a mysterious-looking mirror or chart, and after watching with solicitude the trembling movements of a needle suspended over the flat surface, determine at once upon his line of march, and never suffer the direction to be varied until they came out upon the very town which had been the object of the march. When, as they thought, the Spanish commander discovered this conspiracy (for, doubtless, the faithless Mexican kept his own counsel, or he would have been torn to pieces by his countrymen), what could they imagine but that he had been conversing with that mysterious little rod of iron, whose tremblings had again revealed to its master the course to be taken in the midst of the dangers that beset him. Cortes was not the man to omit any opportunity of impressing others with a sense of his power. The belief of the attendant Mexicans in the knowledge that was thus magically conveyed to the Spanish commander grew to such a height, that some of them, whose consciences must have been quite clear of this conspiracy, begged him to look in the mirror and the chart, and see there whether they were not loyal towards him.

This has been construed as an instance of the "simplicity" of the Mexicans; but it may be doubted whether there are not many amongst ourselves who would be very much puzzled to explain the phenomena which perplexed and awed the Mexican troops. And it must be remembered that the knowledge which had been possessed by their priests, and stored up in their colleges, had, for the most part, been taken from them. If, in these times, a nation were suddenly deprived of its chief men in science and art, it would probably astound the world to see how soon the great body of that nation would degenerate into utter ignorance and superstition. The principal knowledge possessed by mankind is, even now, confined to a very few, comparatively speaking; and in those days, when the few were a favoured caste, and the government was entirely aristocratic or despotic, the loss of the nobles, the priests, and the kings was absolutely the destruction of the nation, as a nation. The Indian, who is now in such a state of stolidity that no reward, hardly, can induce him to stir from the squatting position that he has once taken up before the fire, is the cunning descendant, perhaps, of a man who projected, or helped to carry out, with cunning workmanship, constructions which are still a marvel to the most intelligent persons of the most civilized nations in the world. The destructibility of such civilization as the Assyrian, Egyptian, Mexican, or Peruvian, and perhaps of others as notable, whose names even have been lost, or exist only in symbols that may never be interpreted, is not merely a marked fact in the world's annals, but one which especially requires to be kept in mind in American history, in order to prevent us from falling into the delusion of supposing that the great works and remarkable policies we read of in the New World are mythical or fabulous, while in truth they are quite within the domain of modern history, and rest upon similar testimony to that upon which we give credit to the annals of our own Henry VIII. and Queen Elizabeth. The fathers of Bacon and Shakespeare were contemporaries of Montezuma and Atahualpa.

Here is another on the Peruvian telegraph:—

Couriers, called *Chasquis* (the meaning of the word is, he who takes), were stationed along the roads at distances of about three cross-bow shots from one another. The Curacas were obliged to maintain and renew these *chasquis* each month. They lived in huts upon the road, two being appointed to each station; and one was always to be ready to start. Their symbol of authority was a sort of baton, which they carried in their hands. The intelligence was transmitted from mouth to mouth. When one *chasqui* had received it he ran as fast as he could, until he came within earshot of the *chasqui* at the next station. At that point the first delivered his message, and the second, catching it up, ran and delivered it to the third, and so on; by which means, it is said, this human telegraph conveyed the message two or three hundred leagues in an incredibly short time.

The Peruvians worshipped Nature, not in the metaphorical sense of the moderns, but in a quite earnest sense:—

Versed as we are in second-hand thoughts about Nature, but seldom or never surrendering ourselves to its influence, it must always be a great effort for us to enter into the feelings with which a Persian, a Babylonian, a Hindoo, or a Peruvian was impressed, when beholding the natural phenomena that came so close to him in his bright atmosphere. Intellectually, and even graphically, we perceive it all. We can easily imagine, and perhaps even portray, the assembled multitudes waiting to see the sacred fire rekindled, or to welcome, with unutterable fervour, the rising of the sun upon some morning of a solemn festival. But our northern natures can hardly comprehend how the sun, and the moon, and the stars were imagined in the heart of a Peruvian, and dwelt there;—how the changes in these luminaries were combined with all his feelings and his fortunes; how the dawn was Hope to him; how the fierce mid-day brightness was Power to him; how the declining sun was

Death to him; and how the new morning was a Resurrection to him:—nay, more, how the sun, and the moon, and the stars were his personal friends, as well as his deities; how he held communion with them, and thought that they regarded every act and word; how, in his solitude, he fondly imagined that they sympathized with him; and how, with outstretched arms, he appealed to them against their own unkindness, or against the injustice of his fellow-man.

The great chief, nearly allied to the throne, and longing for high employment, went out from the presence of his sovereign, elated or confounded by a look, and told his joy or his grief to the listening god of Day; or, perhaps, with an aching feeling of envy at his heart, confided to the Sun his anxious misgivings about the rise at Court of a brother *Orgon*, "a mean man, given to terrestrial things, who loves you not," he said, addressing the luminary, "as I do." The sensitive *Amanda*, vexed at the more skillful flattery (more skillful, perhaps, because less delicate and true) just recited at Court by another *Amanda*, the reigning *Inca* sitting by, deplored, in wailing accents to the Sun, the want of refinement among princes, even his descendants; and prayed for a larger measure of the right kind of inspiration which should suit the present age. The Peruvian lover left the overpowering presence of his mistress (as lovers in all countries and all ages have done, and will do), only to think more freely over the transcendent merits of the loved maiden, and to weary the Moon with idle repetitions of great praise and joy. Our inspirations, more fervid when we are within four walls, our nicely-weighted addresses to the heavenly bodies, uttered with musing, downcast eyes, were unknown to the Peruvians, who in the open air spoke boldly up to the living creatures, for so they deemed them, of their poetic idolatry. The astrologer, perhaps, was the only Peruvian who scanned the heavens in a cold and business-like manner, and wished that he could see his way more clearly in deriving knowledge from those wandering lights: while the Sacred Virgin, when the hot Sun poured down upon her cloistered retreat, regarded him with the rapt enthusiasm of religious love, scorning, for a moment, the pale, terrestrial joys, but yet so dear, of other girls, and with a sad, stifling feeling at the heart, trampled down, as best she might, the inextinguishable motherhood that dwells in every woman's breast.

As for sacrifices, what is there which a Peruvian would not have given to these great and glorious personages in the upper air,—his flocks and herds, his slaves, his captives, the choicest works of his hand, and even his own life?

Once penetrated, if only for a moment, by a sense of the utter abandonment to adoration that existed in the souls of these Peruvians, we may bring before ourselves the depth of meaning which was expressed in any of their great rites, celebrated upon spots which the Sun seemed, indeed, to have chosen for his own, where around, for unnumbered leagues, he shot his burning rays, through unimpeding atmosphere, upon the tawny earth; where the calm, level sea, the boundless desert, and the clear mountain, with its sharp shadows, formed a fitting amphitheatre for his majesty; and where the Moon, his sister or his spouse, seldom appeared, except with a full Court, surrounded by innumerable lesser lights, waiting to do her honour.

But we must cease quoting, and refer the reader to the work itself, as not only the most erudite, but the most entertaining book yet written on Spanish America.

SIR JOHN BOWRING IN SIAM.

The Kingdom and People of Siam; with a Narrative of the Mission to that Country in 1855. By Sir John Bowring, F.R.S. 2 vols. J. W. Parker.

SIR JOHN BOWRING, author of the general election of 1857, is not a proficient compiler. These are two disjointed, irregular, verbose volumes, containing an amplitude of information, old and new, which should have been much more compactly put together. Only a small proportion of the work is original, the rest being derived from Pallegoix, La Loubère, Moore, and a number of preceding writers of more or less authority. Sir John Bowring seems to have aimed at bringing together all that is known of Siam; but this object he has not attained, while he repudiates the pleasant attributes of a personal narrator. Towards the close of the book, it is true, the mission of 1855 is described, but only as a sequel to others, including Mr. Crawford's failure, and the effort of Sir James Brooke, which undoubtedly led the way to the establishment of the relations actually in existence between the Siamese kingdom and Great Britain. We say Sir John Bowring has not succeeded in producing a complete account of Siam, and that, as a traveller, he has sunk his individuality; but this does not imply that his work is altogether unsatisfactory. On the contrary, it throws together large masses of excellent material—it lays open the interior life of a little known state—it collects the anecdotes and traditions of a remarkable dynasty—it is replete with interesting facts bearing on the trade, the religion, and the manners of the more distant regions of Asia. We object to it simply that it is awkward in form, that it is too superficial for an encyclopedia, and too voluminous for a manual, and that Sir John Bowring has inundated his actual experiences with an enormous superfluity of bookmaking.

Little is known of Siam, the *Siao* of Camoens, in spite of this large book about it. We know neither why it is called Siam, nor what are its boundaries; a broad debatable land lies between it and Malaya and Burmah on one side, and the mysterious countries of Cambodia and Cochin China on the other. Sir John Bowring gives it a length of nearly twelve hundred miles, and a maximum breadth of three hundred and fifty; but these figures are doubtful. Borman estimates its area at two hundred and ninety thousand square miles. Crawford deducts a hundred thousand from this calculation; both, probably, made their reckonings in the dark. The king himself could not define his own territories. He owns allegiance to China, and claims sovereignty over Cambodia; but Cochin China disputes his sovereignty, and Cambodia pays tribute to both. The mountains which divide the two countries are scarcely known to geography; they are supposed to ramify from the Himalaya, which sends another branch down the Malay peninsula, the two diverging ranges enclosing Siam proper, watered throughout its whole extent by the Meinam, which periodically overflows and deposits along its shores a treasure of virgin soil from the far interior. It is certain that this river pours down from a wilderness of forest and jungles; but it is far from certain that Kempher was wrong when he surmised that it connects Siam by a navigable route with Bengal. That commercial pathway, it is now imagined, may be opened across the neck of the peninsula by means of a ship canal. Sir John Bowring says

that, if the information he received be correct, a cutting only a few miles in length would be required. Before he saw Siam, similar information had been published.

Far up the Meinam are the remains of the ancient capital, Ayuthia, formerly among the most splendid cities of the East, and known to have existed since the fourteenth century; its pagodas and pyramids, colossal statues and fragmentary walls, attest its ancient magnificence. Above this place the population decreases; the villages become less frequent, crocodiles multiply, the roar of the elephant is louder, until the ruins of Phis Salok, another deserted capital, are reached. Beyond lie forests and jungles swarming with wild beasts, and intersected by sluggish streams. When and by what race this vast territory was originally populated it is impossible to say; the native annalists, of course, are prepared with a dynastic pedigree reaching to the clouds, but among their elephants, heroes, and devils it is easy to be bewildered. A great deal of murder, and still more imbecility, is mixed up with their narrations. The reigning king traces himself modestly to a modern source; but whence does he derive the name and style that drag their slow length along in the dedication, Phra Bard Som-detch Phra Paramend Maha Mongkut Phra Chom Klau Chau Yu Hua? This gentleman reads and writes English, and will appreciate, it is to be hoped, Sir John Bowring's resonant flattery.

We may set aside the question of population. All the tables are mere guesses—Pallegoix's six millions, Sir John Bowring's four millions, La Loubère's nine millions, in which La Loubère did not believe. Whatever the numbers are, they are composed of Thai, a large and semi-migratory population of Chinese nationality, of Laos, of Cambodians, of Peguans, Malays, and miscellaneous mountaineers. Of these the Laos alone are interesting. They are a curious people, scattered over the great valley of the interior; their music is the sweetest in Eastern Asia; they play on singularly harmonious instruments—organs of bamboo, bound with ebony—and dance in delicate measures holding garlands of flowers. They are meek, elegant, romantic, and sing only pathetic or amorous songs. Their women wear graceful costumes, and decorate their hair with white blossoms. The great nobles of Siam always send for wives to the country of the Laos. With respect to marriage, the treatment of children, household life, slaves, food, utensils, costumes, social ceremonies, and political institutions, we refer to Sir John Bowring's volumes, which abound in details, largely derived from Pallegoix, who represents the Siamese as a particularly servile people, accustomed to crouch and cringe before their superiors. Of course the white elephant and Siamese Buddhism occupy prominent chapters, effectively illustrated. The Laos are Buddhists, but their creed includes a variety of superfluous dedications to demons, generally malignant. The Laos capital is situated on a wide plain, at the foot of a mountain far up the interior; escaped criminals take refuge there. The women are said to exercise more power than the men, but both sexes, after the harvest has been gathered in, enjoy a period of extravagant indolence. In Cambodia public and private manners are considerably more ostentatious. Like many Eastern sovereigns the king delights in having a female body-guard. A writer quoted by Sir John Bowring saw a bevy at the palace.

They all appeared to be very young, and were doubtless the best-looking girls we had seen in the country. Many of them had soft and regular features, and were not for the disgusting habit of blackening the teeth and shaving the head, only leaving the short tuft of hair I have mentioned before, might really be called pretty, as all had most elegant figures, with those gracefully-curved, flowing outlines, and plump development sculptors love so well to delineate, as forming the chief grace of feminine beauty. These odalisques were very thinly clad, wearing salendangs, and a long silk scarf thrown loosely over one shoulder and across the body: this piece of dress seemed to be used more as an ornament than as a necessary covering, for it was often allowed to slip off the shoulder, and had to be every now and then re-adjusted.

After a long digression relating to the previous intercourse of European powers with Siam, Sir John Bowring describes the incidents of his own mission. He arrived in March, 1855. The king at once sent him a courteous letter in an ornamental vase of gold, with a variety of presents. Two days afterwards the prime minister came off, and great colloquies arose as to the style in which his Majesty should receive the British envoy plenipotentiary, Mr. Parkes "very properly" insisted that the same ceremonial should be observed as that which greeted the ambassador of Louis XIV. The Siamese declared they had no records, but offered to treat Sir John as though he were a diplomatic Burmese, or Cochin Chinaman. That was unsatisfactory; ultimately, the Louis-Quatorze reception was granted; the procession of gilded boats resembled the pictures in La Loubère's book, and the plenipotentiary was well content. He seems to have conducted the mission in a disguised yet conciliatory manner, and the Siamese appear to have been equally decorous and friendly. Everything, in fact, augured well for the intercourse of the two nations; Siam already wore a partially English costume:—

When I reached the landing-place, the chair, with a bearer of a huge umbrella, conveyed me within the palace courts, through hundreds of torch-bearers, the soldiers placed at different spots "presenting arms" to the order given in English. On reaching the reception place, the King came forward. Two little children of the King were playing on a crimson and gold carpet, who screamed at my approach, and were taken away. They seemed to wear nothing except wide-brimmed hats, which covered their heads. He took me to his private apartments, ornamented with beautiful pendules and watches, statues of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, handsome barometers, thermometers, &c. He then led me through two or three small chambers, where were fine specimens of Chinese porcelain services, and other costly decorations. Almost everything seemed English. There were many new books on the shelves. The King spoke of the history of Siam, and said it was rather obscure and fabulous, but that the more veracious portion went back about five hundred years; that the Siamese alphabet had been introduced about that time. Inscribed on the apartments to which his Majesty had conducted me, were the words "Royal Pleasure" in English, and in Sanscrit characters with the same meaning.

Sir John Bowring's notes taken during his stay at the capital, are highly interesting; his opinions are stated moderately, and generally with clearness. However, the several superfluities we have remarked upon, by encumbering the book, and enlarging it unnecessarily, detract from its originality, and are serious inconveniences to the reader.

THE SPIRITUALIST.

The Spiritualist: Being a short Exposition of Psychology based upon Material Truths and of the Faith to which it Leads. By D. F. G. L. Booth.

There is a congestion of type in this curious and elegantly printed volume, which not inaptly corresponds with the congestion of folly it expounds. Old English in loud emphasis of capitals, small caps, and notes of admiration, proclaim that "the watchwords of Progress are Spiritualism in Religion, Mesmerism in Science, and Republicanism in Politics," a very pretty trio, from which nothing less can be expected than *redeunt Saturnea regna*.

"Brother," exclaims D. F. G., in his opening old English of large type, "I believe in God the Great Trinity! My reason tells me He must be—my soul whispers—He is!" This unprovoked confession at the commencement of such a work reminds us of Alexandre Dumas, who winds up the dedication to a five act play by the equally relevant exclamation: *Je crois à l'immortalité de l'âme*. The world is happy to hear it.

D.F.G. continues his confession of faith in the same loud type, assuring a listening world that he believes in "the illusion of matter and the equivocation of the senses." But we spare the reader more of this dithyrambic outburst, and pass on to the dialectic "Elucidation" which opens thus:—

Brother, We are conscious of both a spiritual and a material existence. I believe that existence is but the manifested Will of the Creator.

In myself I call Life that which reveals to me my existence. Spiritual life; Consciousness, the life of the Mind, Perception and Reflection. Material life; Sensation. Thus I believe life to be motion or action.

All motion originates in the Spirit—Spiritual Action is spiritual life, and organized Physical motion is Physical life.

And perfect passiveness and quietude is simple existence.

After rubbing his eyes, the reader, also prone to believe in "the illusion of matter" when this kind of matter is before him, rejoices to think that an explanation is coming:—

Above all things it is necessary to understand the relation of Spirit to matter.

This relation is established by the laws of Nature. Thus the relation of God to matter is that of the Creator to the created, in the fullest sense of the idea. But to the Body and the reason of man, matter truly and actually exists, and the influence of his will upon it is controlled and modified by the laws of Nature, that is, by the Will of God.

I have said that matter is influenced by the spirit, but between them there is an intermediate agency.

I believe, and experimental science tends to prove, that this agency is the same in every case in Nature. In other words, that there is but one subtle and imponderable agency between matter and the spirit either directly or indirectly.

It is the great Truth of Spiritualism and of Psychological science,—That all matter is subject to the will of Man, inasmuch as its influence is not counteracted by the laws of Nature or the Will of God.

Though the influence of the Will upon matter may in certain cases be counteracted, yet facts and analogies do not permit us to doubt that this influence in such cases is actually exerted, and takes place; and that the soul of man, made in the image and likeness of his Creator, affects matter in itself.

But we are so accustomed to consider the matter of our own bodies as being alone, and, to a very limited extent, subject to our will, that some may have a difficulty in realizing this great principle in its full extent.

"Some may have a difficulty," to obviate that the author kindly elucidates; e.g.:—

Organic structure considered both reference to physical motion is merely a series or gradation of agencies, the object of which is to overcome the inertia and gradation of matter.

By this we perceive the difference in the relation of the Will to organic and to inorganic matter.

In the one case the influence of the will is generally overcome by the inherent properties of matter, in the other case these properties are surmounted by means of an organic mechanism.

Is the reader in a proper state of lucidity after this elucidation? If so he will rejoice to hear that these "considerations lead us to the beautiful facts of Mesmeric Science and Cerebral Physiology:—"

In order to form a clear idea of the human soul, both in the phenomena it exhibits in relation to matter, and also in abstract thought, it is necessary to consider it in the living human being in three distinct points of view, or as an intimate combination of three principles, of which two are incidental to the other in the state in which it exists.

These are—

1. The "Spiritus," or Soul, properly so called;
2. The Mind, or Reasoning faculty; and,
3. Life or Animation.

Thus we have the gradation of purely Spiritual existence, Mental existence, and Animal life; which, with Vegetable life and Physical existence, constitute the chain of creation.

To minds so superficial and incompetent as our own these "clear" expositions do not present all the lucidity desirable. If any reader feels himself more competent to grasp the mighty conceptions of this Spiritualist he can seek them in the volume itself, which certainly deserves a place among the curiosities of Literature.

A BATCH OF BOOKS.

Ceylon; Past and Present. By Sir George Barrow, Bart. With a Map, by John Arrowsmith. (Murray.)—Sir George Barrow has produced a brief, pleasant, and satisfactory summary of all that is known of the loveliest island of Asia. To a narrative of Robert Knox's captivity in Ceylon, from the year 1659 to his escape in 1679, he has added an epitome skillfully condensed from successive authors, so that the book may be described as almost a manual. Mr. Arrowsmith's map is, as he remarks, the most complete and authentic yet published. With respect to Robert Knox, it is singular that his work, though more interesting than most romances, should have continued to this day an unread quarto; we have frequently wished for its appearance in a more popular form. Sir George Barrow skins the cream of its adventure and observation, and compiles a really attractive story. No one acquainted with the literature of travel in Ceylon has ever ques-

tioned the merits or the interest of Knox's account, which resulted from a residence of twenty years.

A Long Vacation Ramble in Norway and Sweden. By X. and Y. (Two Unknown Quantities.) (Cambridge: Macmillan.)—We instinctively despise a biographer who believes, and acts upon the belief, that all a great man's chatterings deserve to be recorded. And we are soon weary of a traveller who, though not a great man, congeals in print all the light spray of steam-boat conversation or dinner-table humour. Robinson was, no doubt, amusing at Paris, but why put his puns in post octavo? Jones may have enlivened the ladies at Geneva, but do not ask the public to be amused? If Englishmen will carry abroad the deadly habit of joking, we beg them to allow that element to evaporate over broad-mouthed goblets of Burgundy or Rhine, and to write as travellers pure and simple, if at all. In some cases the offence is easily repelled by throwing the book aside; but when a volume of genuine pictures is only here and there defaced by patches of nonsense, our regret is excited for the folly of the author. The "Two Unknown Quantities" have much to say of an interesting kind about Norway and Sweden—landscapes, interiors, costumes, ways and means of life, personal manners, arts, and institutions; but ever and anon they become what Byron called nimminy pimminy wags, or else they rally the reader in the style that usually betokens a supper of cold fowl and crackers. "A Long Vacation Ramble," with these drawbacks, is an entertaining book.

Episodes in the War-Life of a Soldier: with the Dream-Testimony of Ors May, and Other Sketches in Prose and Verse. By Calder Campbell. (Skeffington.)—Calder Campbell has a mild, steady, enjoyable reputation as a poet. His earliest verses came from India, bright with banana yellow and quava pink, and pomegranate blushes, and some of the melodies played like Indian fountains, warm and fragrant. This is a volume of mingled rhyme and prose, light, elegant, and original. The prose is amusing, and sometimes graphic; but we meet Major Campbell with most sympathy in his poetical moods. If we must be critical, however, we will point to one inconsistency which surprises us in the writings of one usually so graceful and so scholarly. The word "palms" is made to rhyme in the same piece with "warms" and "arms."

Contributions to an Amateur Magazine, in Prose and Verse. By Richard Perry. (Booth.)—Eighteen of Mr. Perry's contributions relate to Australia, and these are the most readable of his prose varieties. The others on Pitt and Wilberforce are generally commonplace. Of the poetry, we have been most struck by one or two free renderings from the Greek.

Australian Essays on Subjects Political, Moral, and Religious. By James Norton, senior. (Longman and Co.)—This doubtfully-decorated little quarto contains thirty-two essays on almost as many subjects. Mr. Norton is an old colonist, and a member of the Legislative Council of New South Wales; but he writes most frequently neither on colonial nor political topics, but on abstract problems—mysteries, eternity, the resurrection, beauty, memory, &c., and does some honour to the community of which he is a member by producing a series well worth perusal. Stone upon stone, we see an academy rising in the Australian settlements, and it may not be long before the literature of America is rivalled at the antipodes.

Patrick Hamilton, the First Preacher and Martyr of the Scottish Reformation. An Historical Biography from Original Sources. By the Rev. Peter Lorimer. (Edinburgh: Constable.)—A Life of Hamilton was wanted. It has been written with zeal and discrimination by Mr. Lorimer, who has had access to some very curious and valuable books. We are glad to see that it is to be followed by biographies of Alesius, and Sir David Lindsay of the Mount. The authors will do well to emulate the steadiness and moderation of Mr. Lorimer's style.

Boy-Princes; or, Scions of Royalty cut off in Youth. By John C. Edgar. With Eight Illustrations. (Bogue.)—We are afraid that Mr. Edgar has compiled this volume in a hurry. It is loosely and feebly put together. The apocryphal is largely mixed up with the history; a repulsive infusion of loyal cant interferes with the truthfulness of the narrative. We do not recommend such a book as healthy reading for boys.

Harry and His Homes. By the Author of "Amy Carlton." (Routledge.)—A story for boys, told in a quiet, moralising way, with little incident and a vast preponderance of sententious dialogue. It may become a favourite with parents, but they will have some difficulty in teaching the young idea to sympathize with Harry.

Duty to Parents: Honour thy Father and Mother. (Hope.)—Perhaps this excellent little volume may assist the parents above alluded to. It is a well-planned, well-executed book.

Deborah; or, Fireside Reading for Household Servants. With a Postscript for Masters and Mistresses. By the Rev. Norman M'Leod. (Edinburgh: Constable and Co.)—We do not appreciate the value of devotional books addressed to special classes, nor can we understand how the Christianity of a domestic servant should be distinguished from that of her mistress; but Mr. M'Leod finds an opportunity for much genial and kindly indoctrination.

How to make Home Happy; or, Hints and Cautions for All. With Five Hundred Odds and Ends worth Remembering. By William Jones, F.S.A. (Bogue.)—Mr. Jones is a man of versatile capacity. He travels with the photographers in Yorkshire; he writes monastic *Horæ*; and he mixes this wonderful olla podrida of cookery, gardening, carpet dusting and platitudes—a useful, but an eccentric volume. Every page is set in a frame of wise saws; some of which are pre-eminently foolish, others practical: "An oath is a recognition to Heaven." "A Christian is the highest style of man." "The rind of young bacon is always thin." "A talkative nurse is a great annoyance to an invalid." "Diligence is the great harbinger of truth" (whatever that may mean). "A fire for frying should be free from smoky coals." Mr. Jones is more lively in kitchens and cellars than in oratories and arm-chairs. Part of his didacticism is to be laughed at, part is to be obeyed.

The Seven Churches of Asia. By the Rev. Robert Maguire, M.A. (Knight and Son.)—It is a long way from Mr. Jones to Mr. Maguire, but Mr. Maguire might be neglected if not noticed at this opportunity. His book contains historical illustrations of Christianity, and is altogether devotional in its tone and in its object.

The Book. By Darwehd. (Hardwicke).—We cannot describe or criticise this volume. It resembles a common-place book, being full of miscellaneous scraps on an infinite variety of topics—the Indian Archipelago, the Arabs, the Hebrew Empire, British India, the Recovery of Debts, and Colonel Macaroni. Where did Darwehd find the phrase "Butterflies like flowers and flowers like butterflies" applied to Indian island nature? He marks as the seven great men of our day, Mazzini, Louis Napoleon, Sir James Brooke, Kossuth, General Walker, Omar Pacha, and Chevalier Bunsen. We cannot be angry when so enthusiastic a writer is rhapsodical.

Some acceptable reprints lie on our table. The second and third volumes of Campbell's *Lives of the Lord Chancellors* (Murray), uniform with the cheap edition of Mr. Hallam's works; two volumes of Charles Lever's popular novels (Chapman and Hall); the eleventh volume of Chalmers's select works—*Church and College Establishments* (Constable); and *Wright's Provincial Dictionary*, forming two volumes of Bohn's Philological Library, a very complete and satisfactory production; a second edition of *Macnaught on Inspiration* (Longman and Co.). We have also four pretty volumes, in brown cloth gilt, of Hodgson's Household Novels—*Stuart of Dunleath*, by Mrs. Norton; *Arrah Neil*, by G. P. R. James; and *The Scalp Hunters and Rifle Rangers*, by Captain Mayne Reid. They are well got up and cheap. Jules Gerard's *Lion Hunting and Sporting Life in Algeria* is reprinted by Messrs. Addey and Messrs. Lambert. Fenimore Cooper's admirable story, *The Chainbearer*, forms the hundred and fifty-eighth volume of the Parloir Library (Hodgson); to which series *Edgar Huntley*; or, *The Sleep-walker*, by Charles Brockden Brown, has also been added.

TORRENS ON THE ACT OF 1844.

The Principles and Practical Operation of Sir Robert Peel's Act of 1844 Explained and Defended. By R. Torrens, Esq., F.R.S. Longman and Co.

There is one peculiarity in banking, as a subject of inquiry, in which it differs from all other subjects of social importance. Exceedingly simple in its main principles, so that its rationale is apparent to plain common sense, it becomes excessively complex in its secondary principles, and in its application to the various circumstances of trade, society, politics, and the usages of other countries. Hence, those who are better acquainted with it than most of us, are persons who are more liable to go astray. Thus we see the most popular master of logic and political economy, John Stuart Mill, led into mistakes which are palpable to the plainest understanding, as soon as the nature of the error is explained. It is this which renders the controversy respecting the Bank of England and the renewal or modification of its charter so difficult and so likely to lead to bad practical measures. Hence the value of labour performed by men that can handle the subject at once practically and theoretically. Lord Overstone, the practical banker, who has a command of theory, assisted in the deliberations upon which the present Bank Charter was arranged. On its last trial, Mr. George Arbuthnot, Peel's private secretary, comes forward to re-establish the main principle of that Act, and to point out some of the chief fallacies by which its most accomplished assailants were led away. Colonel Torrens, a master of theoretical economy, with a command of practical banking, completes the case on this side of the question. Colonel Torrens has assisted in all the discussions that have affected the position of the Bank, most especially the discussions on the legislation of 1844. In 1848, Colonel Torrens produced a tract on the principles and practical operation of Sir Robert Peel's Acts of 1844; and the volume before us professes to be a second edition of that tract, but it is in fact a new work, of which that is the nucleus, and it now settles many a point recently unsettled. Valuable as it is for present purposes, the book is interesting in itself: it presents us the same man reliving fallacies in 1808, and bringing back theory to a clear perception of common sense; and then, half a century later, performing exactly the same service with exactly the same skill and perfection of discrimination.

It would seem unnecessary at the present day to "refute the economists" in showing that the agricultural is not the only source of wealth; that division of employments is in reality a creative process, since it equally enables the manufacturer and the agriculturist to produce commodities on a much larger scale. But the whole doctrine of protection was based upon the imperfect conception of the theoretical truth. It is true that when employments are divided between two sets of hands in the same country, the whole difference of augmented wealth created by the division applies to that country. True, that if commodities be exchanged between two countries, the half of the increase accrues to the foreign country. But if the foreign country can produce a commodity more easily than the domestic producer, by setting free the domestic producer for labour more congenial to the native character and climate, the division of employments still absolutely increases the domestic wealth. Colonel Torrens shows in this paper that the trader who goes between the two is erroneously classed as a "non-productive," since he ministers in the most positive and direct manner to increase production. In the same tract, the author proves that the evils attending upon combination, like those in smuggling, grow from the principle of protection. Leave trade free, he says, and the race of forestallers will disappear. It was thirty-six years later that our best statesman in practical economy, Peel, arrived at a sufficient comprehension of the full validity of these truths to apply them to our legislation; and, in reprinting the tract, Colonel Torrens not only fulfils his proposed purpose of establishing his right to be regarded as the original propounder of the corrected theory for an extent of advantages derived from foreign trade, but presents us with an admirable and instructive illustration of the degree in which the most tangible evils of our political and social management result from superficial thinking.

"What is money?" There has been an idea that bills of exchange are money, and that other media of exchange are money, because they perform some of the offices of money. They fail, however, to fulfil all the functions of coin; they effect exchanges, but they do not of themselves measure value, since their own value varies with the rate of discount, the time to run, &c.; and they do not close transactions. As well suppose that a bill of exchange is money, as that a ticket for soup at the charitable institution is the soup itself. The dullest pauper would tell you the difference. Some

have supposed, however, that even bank-notes are not money; and we see how practically such a theoretical question affects the present discussion when we learn that M. Michel Chevalier, the very highest economical intellect in France, who is now at the elbow of the Emperor dictating the course of economical reforms, says that "a line of demarcation, clear and distinct, has never been established between a bank-note and a bill of exchange." Colonel Torrens admirably works out the illustrations of this fallacy. He shows how a merchant with a slender amount of original capital engaged in extensive transactions, and holding bank-notes in his hand, would be able to close his engagements with ample profit; while, with bills of exchange in his hands, at a period of pressure, he might be unable to sell them for notes, and would go into the *Gazette* instead of continuing a career of prosperity. It is here that Colonel Torrens beats others in the same field: he has the capacity of taking up a question at its simple origin and of working it out to its most complex details; having from first to last the same clear-sighted perception which prevents him from falling into the blunders that have betrayed other intellects.

Even Mr. Mill, although he perceives that bank-notes have, which bills of exchange have not, the faculty of closing accounts, is led away into the notion that they have something in common from the fact that bills of exchange may "affect prices." The bank-note, when as in this country a legal tender, but absolutely convertible into coin, is as literally money as the sovereign; while it is in many respects more valuable. In large sums it is much more portable. It possesses, which coin does not, a peculiar guarantee for tracing and recovering it in case of loss; if even it be destroyed its value may be recovered. These are qualities in which it is superior to the metallic currency. In Hamburg notes have to be issued against a metallic deposit exclusively; the effect of which would be in this country to necessitate the lodging of fourteen millions in gold, in addition to the amount usually lodged in bullion. This amount of bullion against which notes are issued may fluctuate to a very large extent; it has never yet exhausted that 8,000,000, which is about the amount that may be considered the fluctuating superfluous in the Bank, the body of water between high and low tide: the 14,000,000 is below the lowest neap tide. Were the Hamburg plan adopted, there would probably be 14,000,000 of gold slumbering in the coffers of the Bank—so much actual property stowed away and useless. The act of 1844 releases the 14,000,000, but retains for us the 8,000,000, more or less, which is the working part of the stock of bullion available to secure convertibility. This argument is admirably worked out in Colonel Torrens's volume. We more insist upon it, since, even in the very latest discussion, we have seen Mr. James Wilson, one of the ablest writers on the subject, influential and actually in the Government, insisting in the *Economist* that bank-notes are not an "important" element in the currency!

Colonel Torrens gives an excellent account of the panic of 1847, which was so severe a trial to a new system at the Bank; and he then remarks:—

It would seem to be a self-evident conclusion from these facts, that the commercial revulsion was not caused by a contraction of the circulation. On the 13th, 23rd, and 30th of October, during the greatest intensity of the monetary pressure, the circulation in the hands of the public was respectively 20,394,000*l.*, 19,359,000*l.*, and 20,309,000*l.*, being equal, to within about 200,000*l.*, of the actual circulation during the corresponding weeks of January before the commercial pressure had commenced; while the private securities which represented the extent of the advances of the Bank in support of commercial credit, and which had been only 12,700,000*l.* in the three last weeks of January, swelled to 19,900,000*l.*, 18,000,000*l.*, and 19,400,000*l.* in the corresponding weeks of October.

It has been contended that, although the circulation in the hands of the public, and the aid afforded to commerce by the Bank, were greater during the intensity of the pressure than they had been in periods of high confidence, yet that that pressure was materially aggravated by the knowledge on the part of the public, that as the Bank could no longer meet the demands on its deposits by unlimited issues, it was deprived of the power of supporting commercial credit by indefinite advances. But it must be apparent, upon a dispassionate review of the facts, that the knowledge on the part of the public and of the Bank directors that unlimited issues and indefinite advances were no longer practicable, so far from having increased the monetary pressure, saved the Bank of England from insolvency, and the country from the disgrace and the anarchy which that insolvency would have involved. Had the Bank retained the power of recruiting its reserve by increasing its issues upon securities, it could not, by any possible exercise of that power, have maintained the circulation at a higher amount than that determined by the monetary equilibrium of the commercial world. The sole result, as far as regards the amount of the circulation, would have been that the issues upon bullion would have decreased as the issues upon securities increased. Had the Bank persisted through the month of April in the course which it had steadily pursued from January to that time, the result here stated must have ensued. The bullion would have all disappeared, and suspension would have become inevitable. That the Bank did not so proceed, and that suspension did not occur at the end of April, or in the course of the following month, is solely attributable to the Act of 1844.

The course taken by Lord John Russell and Sir Charles Wood, as Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, in recommending an increase of the circulation beyond 14,000,000*l.*, is truly characterised as "a masterly and successful stroke of policy;" but it was not an act of banking. It was proper for the Government to strike out at the day; it would be most improper to contemplate it as a prospective "relaxation;" it was a *coup d'état*, and no bank charter should contain a clause with provisional authority for a prospective *coup d'état*. The crisis of 1847 has been a favourite point with the opponents of the Act. Mr. Mill and other writers have always treated it with some striking *suppression veri*; they have, for instance, overlooked the fact that "previous to the Act of 1844, the Bank, while prolonging the periods of speculative excitement, and intensifying the severity of subsequent recoil, endangered the convertibility of the note circulation, and so far from having been able 'to render invaluable service during a revulsion, by coming forward with advances to support solvent firms, when all other paper and almost all mercantile credit had become comparatively valueless,' the Bank itself became included in the list of firms verging on insolvency."

Another striking example of fallacy is the assertion that under the Act of 1844 the Bank is reduced to the compulsory function of issuing notes against bullion, and that it has no power of increasing the currency save by

that process. Mr. Mill, in common with other reasoners, forgets the important fact, that the Act divided the Bank into two separate departments; and that the banking department, although debarred from tampering with the convertibility of the note, possesses the power to make advances after the manner of other banks. The only difference is, that with an increased command, the Bank of England is brought so close to the actual state of the currency with reference to the state of commerce and of the exchanges, that its own interest and safety are identified with sound policy of the country. And thus, by the simple legislation of 1844, the first great private bank in the country is induced, by its own natural working, to be the great model for private banks, the great auxiliary with estate for regulating the currency according to the natural movements of trade at home and abroad. Our space has entirely precluded us from giving any adequate account of a book which teaches by lucid statement and complete development of reasoning; but we have perhaps said enough to send the reader to the book itself.

A PERSIAN ALLEGORY.

Salaman and Absal: an Allegory. Translated from the Persian of Jami.

London: J. W. Parker and Son.

An anonymous gentleman, affecting the ceremonials of the Carlylian school, has nevertheless conferred a favour upon the English public by presenting it with a readable translation of one of the most celebrated poems in Persian literature. We could wish, indeed, that his Preface had been less egotistical; that it had conveyed more precise information as to the original author and his other works; that it had given us more definite ideas touching the peculiar mysticism of the Sufis. It may doubtless be very gratifying to his "Master in Persian and so much beside," to find that he has not yet glided out of sight and memory down the stream of oblivion. It may equally please him to be called "such a Huntsman as poor Dog of a Persian Scholar never hunted with before." It may even be not distasteful to a certain fair one to know that the translator was "cheer'd on—but that was rather in the Spanish Sierras—by the Presence of a Lady in the Field, silently brightening about us like Aurora's Self, or chiming in with musical Encouragement that all we started and ran down must be Royal Game!" But what cares the general reader for all this bombastic vanity? Far more to the purpose would it have been to write a brief notice of Persian poetry in general, and of the mystical bards in particular. And when a reference is made to the freedoms taken with the original, owing to the structure of the Persian couplet, the explanation is rendered almost unintelligible by such jargon as this:—

This (the peculiar structure of the verse), together with the confined Action of Persian Grammar, whose organic simplicity seems to me its difficulty when applied, makes the Line by Line Translation of a Poem not line by line precious tedious in proportion to its length. Especially—(what the Sonnet does not feel)—in the Narrative; which I found when once eased in its Collar, and yet missing somewhat of rhythmical Amble, somehow, and not without resistance on my part, swerved into that "easy road" of Verse—easiest as unbeset with any exigencies of Rhyme. Those little Stories, too, which you thought untractable, but which have their use as well as Humour by way of quaint Interlude Music between the little Acts, felt ill at ease in solemn Lowth-Isaiah Prose, and had learn'd their tune, you know, before even Hawatha came to teach people to quarrel about it. Till, one part growing on another, the Whole grew to the present form.

But enough and to spare concerning the translator's preface, which is in some degree redeemed by the Life of Jami, condensed from Rosenzweig's *Biographische Notizen*. From this we learn that Noor-ood-deen Abdurrahman—called Jami from his birthplace, Jam, a small town of Khorasan—flourished about the middle of the fifteenth century. While yet a tender youth, he exhibited that tendency to abstracted contemplation which so deeply colours his writings, and renders them at times almost incomprehensible. With this dreamy temperament, he was naturally induced to become a Noviciate of the Sufi school. By long persistence in solitude and thought he made such progress in the process of spiritual absorption, that on his return to the busy haunts of men he had well-nigh lost the power to converse with them. The Sufis are, in fact, a modern adaptation of the ancient Hushangis,—both deriving their tenets from the older philosophy of the Indian Vedantas. From the same source, though through a different channel, were drawn the inspirations of Plato. The voluptuous mysticism of the Brahmanical school breathes in every line of Persian poetry. Under a sensuous imagery are clothed the loftiest and most earnest aspirations after a pure and spiritual condition. The Canticles and the Song of Solomon are written in the same style. Speaking of the Vedanti and Sufi theologians, Sir William Jones says, in one of his Discourses:—

Blending uncertain metaphysics with undoubted principles of religion, (they) have presumed to reason confidently on the very nature and essence of the Divine Spirit, and asserted in a very remote age that all spirit is homogeneous; that the spirit of God is in kind the same with that of man, though differing from it infinitely in degree; and that as material substance is mere illusion, there exists in this universe only one generic spiritual substance, the sole primary cause, efficient, substantial, and formal of all secondary causes and of all appearances whatever, but ended in its highest degree with a sublime providential wisdom, and proceeding by ways incomprehensible to the spirits which emanate from it.

Fortunately for his fame, Jami was a poet as well as a Sufi, and a very voluminous one, to boot. His diction, however, was oftentimes more poetic than his subject. His genius was frequently perverted to the task of teaching grammar and philology in flowery verse. Mr. Gladwin some time since translated a poem of this kind, entitled *Rasemlances, Linear and Verbal*, intended to show the different significations of words minutely resembling one another, and only distinguishable by the diacritical points or vowels. But even to such a subject as this, so distasteful to the Muse, Jami has contrived to impart something of a poetic garb. To use his own words, "decking the brides of speech from the ocean of nature, he draws the even pearls of language on this string of jewels." However, the most celebrated of his works is the *Haf Aurang*; or, *the Seven Thrones*, including "Yusuf and Zuleikha," "Laila and Majnun"—translated into French by M. de Chézy—and "Salaman and Absal." The plot of the last-named poem is as ingenious as it is

simple. There was a Shah of Greece, who "wore the ring of empire of Sikander," and claimed as his guide, philosopher, and friend, a sage of surpassing wisdom. The Shah was childless, and longed for a son to succeed to his fame and power. But the sage warns him against that "foolish, faithless thing," a woman. The monarch was therefore compelled to call a child into being by the concentrated effort of his will. This wondrous child was named Salaman, and entrusted to the tender nursing of Absal, "a moon of beauty full." The nurse dotes upon her foster son, and as he grows to manhood conceives for him a wild and fatal passion. Nor is he insensible to her charms. Forsaking his father and renouncing his own brilliant future, he wasted a whole year in pleasure, till sage and Shah "struck out with hand and foot in his redress." Summoning his refractory son to his presence, the royal sire read him a severe lesson on the certain consequences of his conduct. Salaman heard and repented—"the sea of his soul was moved and bubbled up with jewels." But his repentance was short-lived. The temptation recurred, and he again fell. This time, to avoid further interruptions and sermonising, the guilty lovers fled away together on a camel's back till they reached the boundless ocean. Here on the shores they found a shallop, "like a crescent moon," in which they sailed far away to an island beyond description beautiful. It was an Armida's garden, and Rinaldo himself was not more fascinated than Salaman by his Absal.

Under its trees in one another's arms
They slept—they drank its fountains hand in hand—
Sought sugar with the parrot—or in sport
Paraded with the peacock—raced the partridge—
Or fell a-talking with the nightingale.
There was the rose without a thorn, and there
The treasure, and no serpent to beware.
What sweeter than your mistress at your side
In such a solitude, and none to chide!

But even this delightful solitude à deux is rudely broken in upon by that tiresome Shah, who waxes wrath at his son's continued infatuation. Salaman again repents, but finding life a burden without the company of his mistress, he longs for death. Hand in hand they build a funeral pyre, apply the torch, and together spring into the flames. Absal is consumed, but Salaman escapes unharmed; "the pure gold return'd entire, but all the baser metal burn'd."

Heaven's dome is but a wondrous house of sorrow,
And happiness therein a lying fable.
When first they mix'd the clay of man, and cloth'd
His spirit in the robe of perfect beauty,
For forty mornings did an evil cloud
Rain sorrows over him from head to foot;
And when the forty mornings pass'd to night,
Then came one morning shower—one morning shower
Of joy—to forty of the rain of sorrow!
And though the better fortune came at last
To seal the work, yet every wise man knows
Such consummation never can be here!

For a long time Salaman remains drowned in tears, and hourly laments his lost Absal. But finally the words of wisdom assuage his grief, and Celestial Love quickening in his soul removes all regret for the Earthly. He is then worthy of empire, and the Shah crowns him with the golden crown, and sets the golden footstool beneath his feet.

An epilogue discloses the inner meaning of the mystery. The firm-issuing Shah, is the Creator, or Active Intelligence, the last of a chain of ten, of which the first is the First Intelligence, shadowed forth in the Sage. Salaman is the Soul, Absal "the lust-adoring Body." The ocean on which they sailed is the Sea of Animal Desire. When passion tired, Salaman be-thought him of his true heritage and looked up to the Intellectual Throne. The fire is Ascetic Discipline, which consumes the dross of matter, and leaves the Essential Soul clear of mortal taint. And Celestial Love is Divine Perfection, which when a man attains, he becomes "Lord of the Empire of Humanity."

This curious allegory is relieved by frequent fables and parables ingeniously interwoven, but too long to transcribe.

The Arts.

HANDEL.

THE SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, in a prospectus of the coming Handel Festival at the CRYSTAL PALACE, makes special mention of the important discovery of the collection of MSS. formed by the secretary of HANDEL. The MS. scores composing this collection were doubtless used in conducting the performances of his works: they are full of notes in his own handwriting, which possess the inestimable advantage of substituting certainty for tradition. This collection has been purchased by the distinguished French exile M. VICTOR SCHÉLCHER, by whom it has with great liberality been placed at the disposal of the Sacred Harmonic Society. M. SCHÉLCHER's long-expected "Life of Handel" is announced to appear in May, in time for the Festival, and as in its pages will no doubt be found all the treasures of the MSS, a standard work may be anticipated. It is singular that in France, with all its musical pretensions, HANDEL should only now be not absolutely unknown. On the other hand, it is a Frenchman who writes the "Life of Handel" for England.

THE PRINCESS'S.

MR. KEAN, on Thursday evening produced SHAKESPEARE'S *Richard II.* with a luxury of pageant, a splendour of decoration, a wealth of scenic beauty, and a flush of chivalric gorgeousness, which, as the daily papers say, surpasses anything that even the PRINCESS'S has yet effected. But they always say that, and we are forced into speculating as to what ultimate ecstasy of rainbow light and tinting the Oxford-street manager will carry us before he retires from the dazzled world. The play in question offers many opportunities for show; and of course Mr. KEAN avails himself of them, and the play itself is but a secondary consideration, and nobody goes with any other view than to gaze upon a piece of radiant picturesqueness. The caste comprises Mr. KEAN as *Richard*, Mrs. KEAN as *Queen Isabella*, Mr. RYDER as *Bolingbroke*, and a host of well-attired supernumeraries for mobs and soldiers. Success was certain, and, for the next six months or so, *Richard II.* may be expected to figure in the bills.

MR. OWEN JONES.—The Institute of British Architects, we learn with great satisfaction from the *Builder*, have resolved unanimously to recommend to her Majesty that the Royal Medal for the present year should be conferred on Mr. OWEN JONES, for his published works, including the "Alhambra," and the "Grammar of Ornament." "The recommendation" (says our contemporary, whose good opinion is itself a high testimony) "we have no doubt would be endorsed by the profession, not only in our own country, but throughout Europe. In the production of his magnificent work on the Alhambra, Mr. Owen Jones expended his fortune, 7000*l.* it is stated, with little prospect then of a pecuniary return, and, probably, in opposition to the opinions of his friends, who may have thought that he was devoting his time to an unprofitable study. Strong feeling and determination, however, carried him through it, and the results have fully justified his course as respects the services rendered by it to art, while, personally, he has now probably no reason to regret it. The value of his labours in inducing a feeling for colour, and elucidating the principles of decoration, has long been felt by his professional brethren, and it has been wisely thought that the completion of his last work, "The Grammar of Ornament," made the present a fit moment for the bestowal of the highest reward they had to offer." So exalted and spontaneous a recognition from a body of the most distinguished of his brother artists will, we are persuaded, be received by Mr. Owen Jones as the noblest and most honourable recompense of a life of devotion to his art. Mr. Owen Jones is at present more particularly engaged, we believe, in the construction of the St. James's Music Hall, which is destined to be one of the gems of the metropolis. The "Grammar of Ornament," which he has just concluded, will no doubt be a classic in all the Imperial, Royal, and National Libraries of Europe.

THE RIVER ZAMBESI.—A meeting of the members of the Royal Geographical Society took place on Monday evening; Sir Roderick Murchison presided. After the reading of some papers on the geography of Africa, more especially with reference to the river Zambesi, Dr. Livingstone made some remarks explanatory of his discoveries at the mouth of that stream. It seemed to him, from all the information he could obtain, that a considerable portion of the Zambesi is navigable for ships of some burden, provided they enter with the tides; but he would not recommend a gunboat to be sent up the river, although a very large vessel could go up. About three hundred miles of the river is navigable before the first rapid is encountered, and that being passed, about a hundred miles more is free from difficulty. He considered (and he was borne out in his opinion by that of Captain Hoskyns) that it would ultimately be most valuable for commercial purposes; and he thought a development of a regular trade with the country would lead to the natural extinction of the slave trade.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

HADEN.—At Chalfont, St. Giles, Bucks, the wife of the Rev. J. Clarke Haden, M.A.: a daughter.

HARRIS.—At Southsea, the wife of Captain Harris, R.N., of H.M.S. *Illustris*: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

MATHEWSON-ALLAN.—At Bloomsbury Chapel, Jas. Mathewson, Esq., of Calcutta, to Harriet Jane, daughter of the late Francis Allan, and niece of James Allan, Esq., York-terrace, Regent's-park.

PETTIFOR-DENISON.—At Debdon, Essex, Charles Spooner Pettifor, Esq., son of the late Mr. C. S. Pettifor, of Leicester, to Maria, daughter of the late Mr. Wm. Denison, of Debdon.

DEATHS.

COOK.—At Great Cumberland-place, Hyde Park, Richard Cook, Esq., R.A., in his 74th year.

HAMILTON.—At Eaton-terrace, aged 76, Henrietta Martha, relict of Admiral Sir Charles Hamilton, Bart., K.C.B.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, March 10.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—CHARLES GEORGE, West-ton-super-Mare, Somersetshire, grocer.

BANKRUPT.—MAURICE MEYER and SIGISMUND SROCKEL, 30, Newgate-street, City, general merchants—JOSEPH WHITE and LACY BATCHELOR, Regent-street, West-minster, drapers—WILLIAM WILSON and HENRY WILSON, 19, Foley-place, Portland-place, Middlesex, bookbinders—BENJAMIN COLLIS, Bishop Stortford, Herts, draper—DANIEL SMITH, 2, Harriet-street, Sloane-street, Chelsea, apothecary and surgeon—CHARLES ROBINSON, 138, Strand, Middlesex, masonic jeweller—JOHN TAYLOR, Sheffield, auctioneer—WILLIAM TWEDDALE, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, grocer—CHARLES HEALEY, Manchester, wholesale clothier and marine-store dealer—ROBERT TAYLOR, Sunderland, draper.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—WILLIAM M'LACHLAN and SON, Stirling, coach builders—WILLIAM STYNGTON, late of Barnley-terrace, Glasgow, now of Ponfeigh-place, Carmichael, commission agent.

Friday, March 13.

BANKRUPT.—THOMAS RUSSELL, Peter's-hill, Doctors' commons, schoolmaster—HENRY DYKE, Bristol, cabinet maker—OCTAVE FOA, Old Broad-street, merchant—RICHARD KEMSEY DUT, Bermondsey-street, Southwark, fuel manufacturer—BENJAMIN BROWNING, Hereford, victualler—NATHAN MITCHELL, Leeds, merchant—GEORGE ELIJAH SMART, Telegraph Tavern, Lycombe, Widdowbe, Bath, victualler, &c.—LEOPOLD STRAUSS, Fenchurch-street, City, corn merchant—JAMES KING, Manchester, commission

agent—JAMES CATTERTON and MOSES CATTERTON, Horn-castle, Lincolnshire, millers and bakers—GEORGE LEWIS, Oswestry, Glamorganshire, innkeeper—Wm. SMITH GOODING, Manchester, tailor—GEORGE SPILBURY, Wolverhampton, builder—JOHN COWAN, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, cheesemonger.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, March 13, 1857.

THE markets throughout the Stock Exchange have been very dull, and the little business done has been depressing, and not at all encouraging. The hindrance to business, and the withdrawal of large sums in hard cash to meet the expenses of the coming election, are causes which lead to sales—an absence of all speculation. The City political feeling is still very strong against Lord John Russell. The vast, unscrupulous, and non-reflective majority, which believes in the *Times* leaders and the accusations of Lord Palmerston in the House, persist in ignoring the possibility of any man having given a conscientious vote, and not acting from factional motives.

Lord John's address to the electors of the City of London, is viewed with deep interest, and it will be a hard fight to turn him out.

The demand for money is very brisk, and the sums brought by Blackwall and Mermaid seem to have been already absorbed by the Continent. Consols for account have stood at 93½ all the week nearly. Turkish Six per Cent. stock has fluctuated considerably to-day; the stock seems a little inclined to rise. A marked improvement in Mexican securities has been a feature during to-day. Foreign railway shares are all high—Paris and Lyons, Lombardo-Venetian, Luxembourgs, &c.—a rise of 20s. per share in Sambre and Meuse, consequent upon a vague report of their having obtained a guarantee of some nature. Ceylons continue in demand, and Rips shares at 1*l.* per share better. Great Western of Canada show great firmness, and Grand Trunks are in better odour than they were. Amongst our own heavy railway shares, Lancashire and Yorkshire are the strongest, but even these are lower by 1*l.* per cent. than last week. Caledonians are high, Dovers a little flatter, Berwicks the same.

A good deal of business in British mines—Trelawny, Lady Bertha, Tinctor, Treweek, Great Wheal Vor, Grambler and St. Aubry, Wendron Consols; the Bassetts and Alfreds are likewise in demand.

Joint-Stock Banks keep their prices—Ottoman as high as 1 to 1½ premium. Egypt does not move.

In miscellaneous shares there has been a small amount of business. General Omnibus Company shares are now at 10s. per share premium. North British Australasian firm at 4; a new proposition to buy part of their property and start a new mining company to work the Bon Accord copper mine adjoining the great Burra Burra, is in agitation. United Mexican mine shares have fallen 10s. per share.

For the next six weeks we can look for nothing but poor markets and little business doing. The Bourse in Paris keeps up its prices astonishingly, and one would imagine that the speculators there are going in for another great coup. Money scarcity, and that alone, here prevents our going very high.

At four o'clock, Consols close for money, 93½; for account, 93½; Turkish, 67, 97.

Blackburn, 83, 9; Caledonian, 70, 7½; Chester and Holyhead, 37, 38; Eastern Counties, 102, 11; Great Northern, 95, 96; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 105, 107; Great Western, 63½, 64; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 101½, 101½; London and Blackwall, 64, 64; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 108, 109; London and North-Western, 104½, 105; London and South-Western, 104½, 104½; Midland, 81½, 82½; North-Eastern (Berwick), 54, 55; South-Eastern (Dover), 73½, 74½; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 64, 64; Dutch Rhenish, 1, 1; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 33½, 34; Great Central of France, 24½, 24½; Great Luxembourg, 64, 64; Northern of France, 38½, 39; Paris and Lyons, 54½, 55; Royal Danish, 18, 20; Royal Swedish, 1, 1½; Sambre and Meuse, 94, 104.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, March 13, 1857.

ENGLISH and Foreign Wheat continues to arrive in very moderate quantities; and though the demand has been far from active, the business done has been at former rates. Several cargoes of Taganrog Wheat, of the new crop have been sold at 3*l.* Galatz Maize, 39s. 3d.; Odessa Maize, 38s.; Danube Barley, 24s.; and a cargo of Odessa Barley at 25s. 6d., all cost, freight and insurance. Barley on the spot is firm, notwithstanding a rather liberal supply from abroad; and Oats are only slightly in request; but prices are maintained.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock.....	223	223	222	.....	.....	.....
3 per Cent. Red.....	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
3 per Cent. Con. An.....	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
Consols for Account.....	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
New 3 per Cent. An.....	93½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New 2½ per Cent.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Long Ans. 1860.....	24	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
India Stock.....	par	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ditto Bonds, £1000.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ditto, under £1000.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ex. Bills, £1000.....	3 p	3 p	3 p	3 p	3 p	par
Ditto, £2500.....	3 p	3 p	3 p	3 p	3 p	par
Ditto, Small.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING FRIDAY EVENING.)

Brazilian Bonds.....	102½	Portuguese 4 per Cents.....	.....
Buenos Ayres 5 per Cents.....	54½	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents.....	.....
Chilian 6 per Cents.....	.....	Russian 4½ per Cents.....	98
Chilian 3 per Cents.....	.....	Spanish.....	41½
Dutch 24 per Cents.....	65½	Spanish Committee Cer- of Coup. not fun.....	67
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certf.....	99½	Turkish 6 per Cents.....	91
Equador Bonds.....	.....	Turkish New, 4 ditto.....	100½
Mexican Account.....	23	Venezuela 4½ per Cents.....	.....
Peruvian 4½ per Cents.....	78½	.....	.....
Portuguese 5 per Cents.....	45½	.....	.....

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—SEASON 1857.—It is respectfully announced that HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE will OPEN on TUESDAY, the 14th of April. Engagements of great interest have been effected both in Opera and Ballet. The prospectus, with full particulars, will be issued forthwith.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.

Monday, and during the week, will be performed **THEVES! THIEVES!** Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Vining, Leslie, Cooper, Misses Swanborough and Bromley. To be followed by **A SHEEP IN WOLFS CLOTHING.** Characters by Messrs. G. Vining, Addison, G. Cooke, Leslie, White, H. Cooper; Anne Carew, Mrs. Stirling. After which, **A SPLENDID INVESTMENT.** Characters by Messrs. G. Vining, Robson, G. Cooke, Misses Marston, Stephens, and Castleton. To conclude with **A BLIGHTED BEING.** Messrs. F. Robson, Leslie, H. Cooper, Danvers, and Miss Marston.—Commence at Half-past Seven.

ROYAL SURREY GARDENS.

THE EARLY CLOSING ASSOCIATION will give a GRAND CLASSICAL CONCERT in aid of its Funds, at the Music Hall, ROYAL SURREY GARDENS, Thursday Evening, the 19th inst., at 8 o'clock. (Doors open at 8.30.) **JULLIEN'S ENTIRE SPLENDID ORCHESTRA**, with the following distinguished artists—**MISS DOBLY, MISS ARABELLA GODDARD, and MISS LOUISA VINNING.** Tickets, 1s., 2s., and 3s. each, to be had at M. Jullien's, 214, Regent-street; the Officers of the Association, 35, Ludgate-hill, &c. &c. Number limited.

JOHN LILWALL, Hon. Sec.

MESSRS. DICKINSON beg to announce their intention, on the 17th March, to throw open for PUBLIC EXHIBITION their large galleries, containing the important PORTRAITS and other WORKS OF ART, that have been executed by them, and now for the first time collected, Messrs. Dickinson having been favoured by the owners with the loan of these Works for that purpose.

114, NEW BOND-STREET.

THE CHINESE AND PERSIAN WARS.

ON MONDAY EVENING next, the 16th of March, a PUBLIC MEETING will be held at the FREEMASONS' HALL, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-fields, to consider the policy of the Chinese and Persian Wars. The meeting will be addressed by Richard Cobden, Esq., M.P.; A. H. Layard, Esq., M.P., the Right Hon. Milner Gibson, M.P., and other Members of Parliament. The chair to be taken at 7 o'clock.

THE GREAT TOBACCO CONTROVERSY.

Dr. SEXTON will LECTURE on this important topic daily, at Three and Half-past Seven P.M., at Dr. KAHN'S MUSEUM, 4, Coventry-street, Leicester-square. The Museum, which now stands wholly unrivalled in the world, and the rarity and completeness of whose contents have already acquired for it a European reputation, and obtained the warm commendation of the press in this and other countries, is open daily (for gentlemen only) from Ten to Ten. A new Lecture is delivered by Dr. KAHN at Half-past Eight P.M. precisely. Admission, 1s.—Descriptive catalogue of the Museum, containing Lectures as delivered by Dr. KAHN, gratis to the visitors.

FRAMPTON'S PILL OF HEALTH.

The manifold advantages to the heads of families from the possession of a medicine of known efficacy, that may be resorted to with confidence, and with success in cases of temporary sickness, occurring in families more or less every day, are so obvious to all, that no question can be raised of its importance to every housekeeper in the kingdom.

For females, these Pills are truly excellent, removing all obstructions, the distressing headache so very prevalent with the sex, depression of spirits, dullness of sight, nervous affections, pimples and sallowness of the skin, and produce a healthy complexion.

Sold by PROUT and HARSANT, 229, Strand, London, and all Medicine Vendors.

Price 1s. 1*l.*d. and 2s. 9*l.*d. per box.

BLAIR'S GOUT AND RHEUMATIC PILLS.

This preparation is one of the benefits which the science of modern chemistry has conferred upon mankind, for, during the first twenty years of the present century, to speak of a cure for the Gout was considered a romance—but now the efficacy and safety of this medicine is so fully demonstrated by unsolicited testimonials from persons in every rank of life, that public opinion proclaims this as one of the most important discoveries of the present age.

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EXTRAORDINARILY EFFICACIOUS IN CURING ERYSIPELAS.—Mr. Charles Henley, aged 19, of Abingdon, Oxon, suffered with intermittent attacks of this most dreadful of cutaneous disorders for several years, and had recourse to every known remedy for the cure of the disease, but without success. As a *desperate resort*, he tried Holloway's Ointment and Pills, which were, as usual, signally beneficial, for he was entirely cured in five weeks, to the astonishment of all who had beheld his sufferings, and to the infinite delight of his family and friends.

Sold by all Medicine Vendors throughout the world; at Professor HOLLOWAY'S Establishments, 244, Strand, London, and 80, Maiden-lane, New York; by A. Stamps, Constantinople; A. Guidicy, Smyrna; and E. Muir, Malta.

DEAFNESS, NOISES IN THE HEAD, AND THROAT DEAFNESS.—INSTANT RELIEF.

A certain mode of self-cure. Persons deaf for thirty or forty years are enabled to hear conversation with delightful ease. Full Particulars to regain hearing, with the name and address of 200 deaf persons cured. Published this day, in a book, with directions, sent free on receipt of Seven Postage Stamps, by F. R. HOGHTON, Esq., M.R.C.S. and L.A.C., Surgeon to the Dispensary for Diseases of the Ear, 33, Suffolk-street, Pall-mall, London. Hours of Consultation 11 till 4 every day. Confirmed Deafness cured by one visit. Noises in the Head instantly removed without operation or one moment's inconvenience.

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Guaranteed, 5s. per dozen. Queen Isabella's favourite Wine, as used at the Royal table of Spain.

The peculiar characteristics of the wine are full body, fine flavour, and great richness, and is the **FINEST SHERRY** ever imported, and eminently suited to the palate of those who enjoy and appreciate a first-class wine.

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(Copy.)
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"I have submitted to a microscopical and chemical examination the samples of barley and groats which you have forwarded to me, and I beg to inform you that I find in them only those principles which are found in good barley; there is no mineral or other impurity present, and from the result of my investigation I believe them to be genuine, and to possess those nutritive properties assigned by the late Dr. Pereira to this description of food."

(Signed) "A. S. TAYLOR."

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Sets, 4l. 4s.—*Her Majesty's Royal Letters Patent* have been awarded for the production of a perfectly WHITE ENAMEL, for decayed FRONT TEETH, which can only be obtained at Messrs. Gabriel's Establishments,

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Consultation and every information gratis.

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Compound Achromatic Microscopes, from 4 to 40 guineas.

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And pronounced by HER MAJESTY'S LAUNDRESS to be THE FINEST STARCH SHE EVER USED.
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City-road, near the "Angel." HORNBAIL and CATCHPOOL, of Bullford Mill, near Witham, Essex, and of Caledonian-road, Islington, beg to announce that they have taken the above premises, with a view to being more central.

For prices of genuine country Flour, &c., delivered to London families, and for other particulars, see *Times* daily.

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Has now, in consequence of its marked superiority over every other variety, secured the entire confidence and almost universal preference of the most eminent Medical Practitioners as the most speedy and effectual remedy for CONSUMPTION, BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, GOUT, RHEUMATISM, SCIATICA, DIABETES, DISEASES OF THE SKIN, NEURALGIA, RICKETS, INFANTILE WASTING, GENERAL DEBILITY, and all SCROFULOUS AFFEC- TIONS.

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Buyers of the above are requested, before finally de- ciding, to visit **WILLIAM S. BURTON'S SHOW-ROOM.** They contain such an assortment of FENDERS, STOVES, RANGES, FIRE IRONS, and GENERAL IRON- MONGERY, as cannot be approached elsewhere, either for variety, novelty, beauty of design, or excellence of workmanship. Bright stoves, with bronzed ornaments and two sets of bars, 4l. 14s. to 13l. 13s.; ditto, with ornate ornaments and two sets of bars, 3l. 5s. to 22l.; Bronzed Fenders, with standards, 7s. to 51l. 12s.; Steel Fenders, 2l. 12s. to 11l.; ditto, with rich ornate ornaments, 2l. 12s. to 18l.; Fire Irons, from 1s. 6d. the set to 4l. 4s.

The BURTON and all other PATENT STOVES, with radiating hearth plates.

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The **REAL NICKEL SILVER**, introduced twenty years ago by **WILLIAM S. BURTON**, when plated by the patent of Messrs. Elkington and Co., is beyond all comparison the very best article next to sterling silver that can be employed as such, either usefully or ornamentally, as by no possible test can it be distinguished from real silver.

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Dessert ditto and ditto.....	30s.	35s.	42s.
Tea ditto.....	18s.	24s.	30s.

Tea and Coffee Sets, Cruet, and Liqueur Frames, Waiters, Candlesticks, &c., at proportionate prices. All kinds of re- plating done by the patent process.

CHEMICALLY PURE NICKEL NOT PLATED.

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DISH COVERS and HOT WATER DISHES in every material, in great variety, and of the newest and most recherche patterns. Tin dish covers 6s. 6d. the set of six; block tin, 12s. 3d. to 25s. 6d. the set of six; elegant modern patterns, 34s. to 55s. 6d. the set; Britannia metal, with or without silver-plated handles, 70s. 6d. to 110s. 6d. the set; Sheffield plated, 10s. to 16s. 10s. the set; block tin hot water dishes, with wells for gravy, 12s. 6d. each; Britannia metal, 22s. to 77s.; electro-plated on nickel, full-sized, 11l. 11s.

The additions to these extensive premises (already by far the largest in Europe) are of such a character that the entire of **RIGHT HOUSES** is devoted to the display of the most magnificent stock of **GENERAL HOUSE FURNISHING** (including Cutlery, Nickel Silver, Plated Goods, Baths, Brushes, Turnery, Lamps, Gasers, Iron and Brass Bedsteads, Bedding, and Bed-hangings), so arranged in Sixteen Large Show Rooms as to afford to parties fur- nishing facilities in the selection of goods that cannot be hoped for elsewhere.

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Established, 1820.

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WATCH, CLOCK, and CHRONOMETER MANUFACTORY, 33 and 34, LUDGATE-HILL, LONDON. Established 1740—J. W. BENSON, Manu- facturer of GOLD and SILVER WATCHES of every descrip- tion, construction, and pattern, invites attention to his magnificent and unprecedented display of Watches, which is admitted to be the largest and best selected stock in London. It consists of Chronometer, Duplex, Patent, Detached Lever, Horizontal, and Vertical Movements, Jewelled, &c., with all the latest improvements, mounted in superbly finished engine-turned and engraved Gold and Silver Cases. The designs engraved upon many of the cases are by eminent artists, and can only be obtained at this Manufactory. If the important requisites, superiority of finish, combined with accuracy of performance, elegance, durability, and rea- sonableness of price, are wished for, the intending Pur- chaser should visit this Manufactory, or send for the IL- LUSTRATED PAMPHLET, published by J. W. BENSON (and sent post free on application), which contains sketches, prices, and directions as to what Watch to buy, where to buy it, and how to use it. Several hundred letters have been received from persons who have bought Watches at this Manufactory, bearing testimony to the correct per- formances of the same.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

From the *Morning Post*, Oct. 30, 1856.—"Exhibits exqui- site artistic feeling in ornamentation, and perfection of mechanism in structure."—From the *Morning Chronicle*, Oct. 30.—"Excellence of design and perfection in workmanship."—From the *Morning Advertiser*, Nov. 1.—"The high re- pute which Mr. Benson has obtained for the quality of his manufacture stands second to none."—From the *Morning Herald*, Nov. 3.—"The high standing of Mr. Benson as a London manufacturer must secure for him a large amount of public patronage."—From the *Globe*, Nov. 3.—"All that can be desired, in finish, taste, and design."

GOLD WATCHES, Horizontal Movements, Jewelled, &c., accurate time-keepers, 3l. 15s., 4l. 15s., 5l. 15s., to 15l. 15s. each. Gold Lever Watches, jewelled, and highly-finished movements, 6l. 8s., 8l. 8s., 10l. 10s., 12l. 12s., 14l. 14s., 16l. 16s., to 40 guineas.

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To the ELECTORS of the BOROUGH of REIGATE.

Gentlemen,
The announcement of a General Election calls on me, in recognition of my pledge, to present myself as a Candidate for your suffrages.

My political principles are well known to you. We have lived some years together as friends and neighbours, and you have, therefore, had the simplest means of knowing my private character.

Although entirely independent of all parties, I have all my life been an ardent Reformer.

I take a deep interest in the promotion of education, of free trade, and of social and political progress.

I claim for every man the right of private judgment, and of exemption from all pains, penalties, and disabilities in the conscientious exercise of that right.

I am a strenuous advocate for purity of election, and I rejoice in believing that on that subject your views are equally decided.

I advocate the strictest economy in the national expenditure which is compatible with the due efficiency of the various departments of the public service. I believe that judicious retrenchments may be applied, especially to the superfluous expenses of our navy and military establishments without impairing that effective strength of either which is not less essential to the maintenance of the honour and security of the nation than to the preservation of peace by due preparation for the sad alternative of war.

It has been my endeavour as a private citizen to elevate the position of the industrious labourer, to minister to the privations of the deserving and necessitous, and to promote the usefulness of our local institutions.

I have viewed with regret and anxiety that estrangement of classes in the economy of modern society, which too often has its origin in a neglect of those duties of kindly neighbourhood, in the discharge of which is bound up the safety of the rich and the elevation and comfort of the poor. It will be my endeavour if elected to impress upon the Legislature the spirit which has dictated these views of social obligation, and to the best of my ability to serve you diligently, and to legislate with a single eye to the true interest of our common country.

As I have no personal interest to serve, and no unworthy ambition to gratify, in responding to your requisition, it will be my endeavour so to represent you as to justify your confidence. A retired British merchant, and one of yourselves, I shall esteem it no less an honour than a duty faithfully to discharge the high trust should your choice devolve upon me.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your faithful and obliged servant,
Reigate-hill, March 10, 1857. WM. HACKBLOK.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BANKING COMPANY.

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Business with all the Australian Colonies conducted through the Bank's Agents.

Apply at the Company's Offices, 54, Old Broad-street, London. WILLIAM PURDY, Manager.
London, 1st March, 1857.

NOTICE OF DIVIDEND.—At the First Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of the LIFE ASSURANCE TREASURY, and DEPOSIT, ASSURANCE, and SAVINGS BANK, the Right Hon. the Earl of DEVON in the Chair, the Report and Balance-sheet for the past year having been adopted, it was unanimously ordered that a Dividend of Five per Cent. should be paid to the Shareholders.
Offices: 6, Cannon-street West, E.C.
* * Six per Cent. Interest is now paid on Deposits.

SIX PER CENT. INTEREST.—DEBENTURES bearing Six per Cent. Interest are now ready to be issued for sums of 20*l*. and upwards; interest payable half-yearly.

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Charles Hulke, Esq., Hall-grove, Bagshot.
F. D. Bullock Webster, Esq., Norfolk-terrace, Hyde-park.
Arthur F. Osnow, Esq., Leamington-house, Shrew, Guildford.
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This Company enables persons, without speculation, to invest large or small sums, at a higher rate of interest than can be obtained from the public funds, and on as secure a basis.

Forms of application to deposit sums of money, at 5 per cent. interest, payable half-yearly, or to purchase shares (the present interest on which is 6 per cent.), may be had on application to
K. HODSON, Sec.
15 and 16, Adam-street, Adelphi.

RUPTURES.—BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

WHITE'S MOC-MAIN LEVER TRUSS is allowed by upwards of 200 Medical Gentlemen to be the most effective invention in the curative treatment of Hernia. The use of a steel spring (so often hurtful in its effects) is here avoided, a soft Bandage being worn round the body, while the requisite resisting power is supplied by the Moc-Main Pad and Patent Lever, fitting with so much ease and closeness that it cannot be detected, and may be worn during sleep. A descriptive circular may be had, and the Truss (which cannot fail to fit) forwarded by post, on the circumference of the body, two inches below the hips, being sent to the Manufacturer, Mr. JOHN WHITE, 225, Piccadilly, London.

Price of single truss, 1*l*. 2*l*. 3*l*. 4*l*. 5*l*. 6*l*. 7*l*. 8*l*. 9*l*. 10*l*.
Postage, 1*s*. Double Truss, 3*l*. 4*l*. 5*l*. 6*l*. 7*l*. 8*l*. 9*l*. 10*l*.
Postage, 1*s*. 2*s*. Unilateral Truss, 4*l*. 5*l*. 6*l*. 7*l*. 8*l*. 9*l*. 10*l*.
Postage, 1*s*. 2*s*.

ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE-CAPS, &c.
for VARICOSE VEINS, and all cases of WEAKNESS and SWELLING of the LEGS, SPRAINS, &c. They are porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and are drawn on like an ordinary stocking. Price from 7*s*. 6*d*. 1*l*. 2*l*. 3*l*. 4*l*. 5*l*. 6*l*. 7*l*. 8*l*. 9*l*. 10*l*.
Postage, 6*d*.
Manufactory, 225, Piccadilly, London.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—Notice
It is hereby given, that this Company has returned to its offices, which have been rebuilt, No. 29, Lombard-street, at the corner of Clement's-lane.

Offices in Liverpool—Royal Insurance-buildings, North John-street, and Dale-street.

FIRE BRANCH.—The Fire premium in 1856 amounted to about 150,000*l*., placing the Company among the very largest offices in the kingdom: indeed, it is believed that there are only three or four offices which equal it in Fire revenue. Insurances are received upon nearly all descriptions of property in the United Kingdom, the Colonies, and most Foreign Countries; the rates of premium are exceedingly moderate, and governed in each case by a careful consideration of the risk proposed.

LIFE BRANCH.—The Life revenue during the past year amounted to about 40,000*l*., the new premiums alone exceeding 10,000*l*. A bonus was declared in 1854 of 3*l*. per cent. per annum on the sum assured, averaging about 80 per cent. of the premiums paid, being one of the largest ever declared. All the insurances effected during the present year will participate in the next bonus in 1859. The paid-up and invested capital, including life funds, amounts to nearly half a million sterling.

PERCY M. DOWSE, Manager.
JOHN B. JOHNSTON, Secretary to the London Board.

LAW LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICE.

Fleet-street, London, 2nd March, 1857.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Books for the Transfer of Shares in this Society will be closed on Thursday the 19th instant, and will be reopened on Wednesday the 8th day of April next. The Dividends for the year 1856 will be payable on and after Monday the 6th day of April next.
By order of the Directors,
WILLIAM SAMUEL DOWNES, Actuary.

UNITED MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, 54, Charing-cross, London.

Whole Profits divided annually. No charge for Policy Stamp. Every description of Life Assurance effected on equitable terms.

THOMAS PRITCHARD, Resident Director.

THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT of the Directors of the MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, together with the CASH ACCOUNT and BALANCE SHEET for the year 1856, showing the state of the Society's affairs on the 31st of December last, as presented to the General Meeting on the 18th of February, 1857, will be delivered on a written or personal application to the Actuary, or to any of the Society's agents in Great Britain.
CHARLES INGALL, Actuary.

MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICES.
39, King-street, Cheapside, London, E. C.

BANK OF DEPOSIT,

No. 8, Pall-Mall East, LONDON.
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